棺姫のチャイカ

I

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ファンタジア文庫

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Prologue

Nothing foretold the end of the coming days as usual.

There is, perhaps, some signs were still.

But it is at that time was only a child and could not be aware of the situation in her kingdom and neighboring countries … from the beginning to the end was happening outside her understanding. All she had – a stunned look at what is happening in front of her eyes.

Somewhere someone bellowed.

Somewhere someone moaning.

Somewhere someone screamed.

Voices infinitely overlap and merge into a symphony of destruction.

Its interwoven melody of screams, cries, screams … and mixed into them roar of flame and wind. Disassemble the individual sounds in it was impossible. Screams of the country, who beat in its death throes.

– A princess!

She saw through the window something strange.

The sky stretched endlessly swam something huge.

It is difficult to say how far away it is aligned windows. But one thing is certain – it was something amazingly huge. Judging by how small it seemed on the background of the dragoons, it was the size of a castle … although, perhaps, even of a small hill.

And it flew.

He kept nothing. It is on nothing hung. It hovered like a cloud.

Yes, the magic could make the impossible possible … but it's still too much.

At first glance it looked like a vertical cylinder. But after careful examination it became clear that it was more of a statue. It depicted a human figure … praying maiden with arms folded.

It was flying in the sky statue.

AND…

– A princess!

She soon realized that it was a fortress for them advancing army.

– …

Fearfully. Fearfully. Too scary.

Hoping to escape the kind of fortress she looked down.

But already there is a truly infernal spectacle unfolded.

Enemies. Enemies. Enemies. Enemies. Enemies. Enemies. Enemies. Enemies. Enemies. Enem … and only enemies.

Before the eyes of nothing but enemies.

Countless enemy soldiers were approaching inexorably to them.

They moved in a rush, literally sweep their troops, waving arms and pushed in front of billboards. She saw the damaging flow. To her own dismay.

– A princess!!! Where are you?!

Even this little girl knew nothing about tactics and strategy, could say with confidence:

“They are doomed. They have no chance of winning. ”

– A princess!..

The elderly maid burst into the room, almost tearing the door off its hinges.

– Ah, the princess … so that’s where you were! – She cried, her face expressing anxiety and fear.

She looked awful – and the hair and the dress was disheveled. It seemed that the law “The first palace maid of honor to take care of the dignity of its kind”, which she solemnly broadcast completely flew out of her head.Bruising and abrasions on his face hinted that on the way here she could trip and fall.

– Please, for me … hurry!

– …

The maid took her hand and led her deeper into the castle.

Its decor was different from the usual one only.

Everything was purple.

The color of the flaming fire, scattering blood everywhere … in other words, the color of irrevocable death of her native lock. By hanging around flags and pictures of crazed dancing flames. The fire spared only laid on the floor carpets, and it is only thanks to the fact that

those to the ground soaked with blood.

The floor was littered with countless corpses.

There were corpses and allies, and enemies. They really did not find it. Some recognize it, some do not.Some of the bodies belonged to people, some – definitely not.

Most of them are killed by guns. But there were corpses and charred, and oplavivshiesya like stale candy in the sun. It is hard to imagine how they were killed.

There were corpses of men. There were corpses of women.

There were the remains of children. There were remains of old.

On the floor lay the incarnation of death in all its manifestations.

And among them …

– All right, Princess, all is well.

… To move, bypassing the dead body, the maid of honor, trying to convince these words, in the first place itself. Sometimes she had to trample the corpses of the feet, and it does not matter whether they belonged to the allies or enemies. To distinguish them was impossible. And even more so once.

– We just need to get to His Majesty …

Together with the maid of honor they walked through the castle, which took twice as much time than usual.

Luckily on the way they had never met the enemy soldiers.

But…

– Your Majesty! I brought the princess! – Cried the maid of honor, rushing to the throne zal.-…?!

She froze in terror.

Typically, in this room labored under a hundred servants and officials.

This room was to serve as a symbol of authority and power … but now it reigned desolation, and in the rays of the setting sun lazy and did it become similar to the abandoned ruins.

And in the back of the room …

Empty throne on which the emperor had to sit.

Instead of this…

– The … Your Majesty … – breathlessly handed the maid of honor.

Near the throne lay face on the floor man.

They did not see his face. But his appearance and clothes, embroidered with gold and silver threads, clearly pointed out who he was.

And yet … it was obvious that the man was already dead.

On this unambiguously hinted rastekshеysya on the stone floor a pool of blood.

– Can not … – whispered the maid of honor and her gaze from the bloodied corpse of the emperor far away.

Behind him stood a semicircle of eight figures.

All are armed. Among them were the knights with swords and wizards with magical Gundo. There were humanoids with animal ears and tails. They all wore different armor … and you could see that the color of the skin and they differed. Most likely, this detachment of soldiers gathered around the world.

– Your Majesty … Your Majesty … Your Majesty! – Cried the maid of honor, ran to the side of the remains lying on the ground.

And the next time …

– Your Majesty, Your …

Hit.

In the hall there was a thud.

He pushed one of eight figures. In her right hand was a large sword, which she cut off the head of the maid of honor … I guess.

It is difficult to say with certainty exactly what happened, because the girl did not have time to see what happened. One of the figures, similar to the swordsman at a moment twitched, and then the maid of honor's head with a frozen facial surprise rose into the air. How exactly it happened, she did not know.

And then…

– It's – the Devil's daughter? – Said one of the figures.

All their eyes focused on her.

Before his death, the maid of honor loudly announced that "led the princess."

So, no denial, no attempts appear uncomplicated they would not be moved to

pity. Moreover … most likely, the maid of honor speech at the outset did not influence its fate.

Corpses in the castle already enough, so that no one would have been surprised a couple more.

Rather, they destroyed all those suspected of ties of blood, cursing the Emperor, and were not going to leave anyone alive.

– If so, it will meet the same fate.

– It does not matter that she was a child.

– We have to live with confidence in the future.

Figures began sedately approach her.

– In the name of peace.

– In the name of justice.

– In the name of all of us.

– Do not ask for mercy.

She saw the same knight that cut off the head of the maid of honor, swung a sword.

– What can you roar … and hate us as much as necessary, but it’s time to leave this world.

And then…

…

Was 1604 UT chronology.

Raging on the continent Ferbist Three hundred war came to an end with the death of the Northern Empire Gas.

In the decisive battle against it, “the root of all evil”, were thrown completely all forces – 620 thousand “traditional” soldiers, knights, magicians, spies and mercenaries, three flying fortress, full of magical weapons and units of magical beasts “Fail”, and detachments riders dragoons.

Six kingdoms entered into an alliance in order to attack the Empire Gas. After the battle, they signed a peace treaty and announced that today the war is declared ended. The empire was divided between six countries and untold riches Cursed Emperor effectively used for post-war reconstruction. The country is divided between them and the main pride of the Empire – the magic of technology.

Impending world, which for so long yearned for all the inhabitants of the continent.

Chapter 1

The first thing he saw upon waking, was the face of his sister.

It was so close that he could feel her breath on yourself.

– …

– …

For a time they were silent.

From a distance came the chirping of birds.

Brightness rays breaks through the window and the heat wafting from the air streets proclaimed that the long winter is about to end. Blossom trees, animals crept out of their holes. In the courtyard was the very time when the whole of life, with bated breath, waiting for the beginning of new days of plenty.

And in the meantime …

– Good morning, brother, – she was whispered by his sister, Akari.

They were on the bed, which slept together.

But now Akari was on top. She stood over him on all fours, his whole appearance resembling a beast of prey, giving to understand their production, that now it will be eaten. Compared to most of their generation of girls, she was noticeably higher, and the sight of her, hanging from above, fraught with a threat that could calm anyone.

– ...

“Let it be my sister, but she’s really beautiful,” – forced to conceded Torah.

She was only 17 years old but it is already possible to shamelessly call “beautiful” and not “cute.” Clearly defined facial features, noble atmosphere and flowing long black hair seemed to have gone from the picture.One of its kind Raziel spot not only men but also some women.

That’s just the emotions of her face was unacceptably poor. Thor himself believed this significant shortcoming of his sister, but she herself, he did not seem bothered at all.

At the same time he …

– …

… I looked at her with eyes full of misunderstanding is so obvious, that he saw his reflection in the black eyes Akari.

His own eyes and hair as black as hers.

Face to some degree could be called a fit.

But the expression of the face – more relaxed.

Whether apathetic, or sluggish.

Perhaps, such an expression is not surprising for a teenager, but on his face, in principle, no ambition and courage. It was as if somewhat dry, wilted appearance permanently stuck to it. Of course, wrinkles and under-eye circles are not there, but for some reason he looked like an old man’s dying. It was too much, even less the fact that he had just woken up.

Thor himself felt his face grim.

And he did not even try in any way to fix it.

– Brother …

So, on the bed lay brother, and on it sat his younger sister.

Calling the situation unexpected for the Torah did not turn language.

He knew that one day it’s still going to happen.

He noticed how lately have begun to change attitudes that Akari was throwing in his direction.

But…

– … I could no longer endure – said Akari, looking exactly the Torah eyes. – I thought so much about you, brother … so much thought …

– I thought … what exactly? – I asked the Torah, half closing his eyes.

– … I was not going to behave so boldly, – said Akari, slightly drooping eyelids.

– Yeah.

– It is your fault.

– My?

– Yes. It's your fault, brother – said Akari and shook her head slightly. – You do know very well … how much I think of you.

– No…

Thor looked at his sister's face and frowned.

A lock of her black hair, as if unable to stand, and jumped schekotnula Torah cheek.

– To be honest, I did not think that you are so much desperate.

In addition to the inexpressive face, Akari so often make spontaneous actions that even the Torah had not the slightest notion of the course of the thoughts of his sister. Whatever it was, she was very patient man … but at the same time, emotions gradually been accumulating in it, and one day it suddenly exploded. Because of this, to live next to it is by no means easy.

His older brother, called the Torah ACURE.

Her younger sister, named Akari ACURE.

This is their full names.

But they are rarely presented by them. None of the neighbors did not know their names. In many countries, ordinary people were no names, in principle, so that they do not surprise anyone. After the war, many people have become refugees and to merge with the citizens of other countries, so that in one city could be immigrants from many different countries, too, have no one was surprised.

But all this did not matter as compared to the …

– Akari. Can I ask you something? – Toru said, half-closing his eyes again.

– What's up, brother? I am ready to answer any question, who wants to ask me my favorite brother.

The impression of a warm cues spoiled her eyes, the light is cold light, like a frozen lake during the winter.

Although they always shone.

– What is it?

Torah pointed to the seat next to his head.

There was an iron hammer.

His tip dug deeply into the pillow.

– Brother. What happened to you? – Akari bowed her head in bewilderment. – Are you sick amnesia in this age? Do not you know my favorite gun?

– Yes, I know what it is, – groaned in response to the Torah.

Hammer it was not huge. He relied on the castle and the severity of the material, as well as the strength of its owner, it's done with an emphasis on ease of swing. In other words, even at home this weapon is extremely dangerous.

– I wanted to ask what he was doing in my pillow.

– I stabbed him there.

– That I do understand.

– Then what is it you do not understand ..?

– First of all, I do not understand how you can not understand what I do not understand, – said Thor, glaring at his sister's face. – What was the reason you decided that your favorite Iron Hammer, which you do not break up the last ten years …

At this point, the Torah tapped the hammer.

– … You need to sink into my pillow? That's what I want to know.

– Brother … – Akari sadly shook her head.

However, her expression did not change even after that.

– I'm not going to stick it in your pillow.

– ABOUT?

– I was aiming for your head, brother.

– It is even worse, a fool – immediately swore Torah. That's just he has not yet had time to finally move away from a dream, and the battle has turned out more like a rumbling. – Kill me?

– Why do I want to kill her beloved brother? – Akari said in a clear voice, continuing to build

on the recessed into the cushion hammer.

Her type is not really breathed malice. Instead, she said, even more clear voice:

– I did this because you did not wake up, no matter how much I have been waiting for.

– Oh, so, I almost managed to sleep forever.

Indeed, almost … he had no doubt that he did not turn over in his sleep, the hammer would not sticking out of the pillow, and from his forehead. Now it was imperceptible, but the hammer Akari sharpened on one side only, and the impact they would have crumbled skull not only the Torah, but also his entire brain.

– It is clear – as always calmly replied, Akari and nodded.

It seemed as if she wanted to ask, “Are you all right, just what you want?”.

– …

– …

They again froze and fell silent.

Again he heard the birds chirping.

– Brother … – as usual sluggish start Akari, obviously tired of pereglyadyvany. – What plans do you have for today?

– Sleep – with displeasure, said Toru. – More precisely, nothing.

– Uh-huh. And then?

– How hungry will eat anything.

– Clear. It is logical. What else?

– All – still dissatisfied with the Torah said, and then turned on his side, intending to go back to sleep.

It has for some time in silence waited, and then …

– Brother … – Akari said, looking at his profile.

By the way, she still has not pulled the hammer out of the pillow.

– If you go to work today, so I will be glad that I will fill all the blood from the nose.

– Well, maybe, at the same time die from blood loss.

– What a horrible word, brother. And I love you so much.

– That’s why you’re going to hit me a hammer?

– This is the hammer of my love, – coolly replied Akari.

Then she jumped off a slight movement of the bed, just as easily removed the hammer and put it on his shoulder. The muscles in her arms tensed characteristic. The sight of this girl with military weapons in the hands and even had time to pall his view, all seemed equally unusual.

– Brother. I have long been puzzled.

– What else?

– Why do not you work?

In this matter, there was no ridicule or contempt. Perhaps the Torah would be easier if they were present.

He could hardly help but sigh and said:

– Work for the losers.

Then he turned back to his sister.

– …

He felt Akari looked at him with bowed head.

– What is the losers?

– How do I know?

– …

The room was hanging unusually heavy silence.

Unable to stand the sight Akari, drilled his back, the Torah added:

– Get away from me already.

– …

Akari thought for a moment …

“Bloodlust … ?!”

Just for a moment he felt that someone is hungry for his blood.

– !!!

Torah immediately curled up, and at the same time in a hair from his head with a whistle flew hammer. Toru was late for a moment, took a hammer to the scalp with it, and it would be bald. Although it is difficult to say, I take the bare skull of a bald head.

– Hey, you!

Thor turned to his sister. Of course, his dream vanished.

– Brother …

She stood sadly covering his eyes with his left hand. The expression on her face at the same time did not change, and she went on the right hand brandishing a hammer. Sighing, she said:

– If you absolutely refuse.

– No, wait. Wait, I say. To start put down the hammer – Thor raised his hands, trying to move away from her.

While he was still on it at arm's length. On the verge of death. Good delivered a blow to raspolovinit it along with the bed.

– …

Akari continued silently waving a hammer.

Apparently, the lower it she was not going to. Typically, the Torah could somehow convince her, but today it did not work. Apparently, the day came when he would have to join with her in an open confrontation. Bowl of her patience hopelessly overfilled.

– Brother …

– What?

– If you did not going to work, not to go out, and to be at home and лежать-лежать-лежать-

– … To make you a stuffed animal and sell …

– Do not dare! Yes, and you will not sell me!

– Come on, – Akari uncharacteristic movement of her head, even for a moment without stopping the hammer.- I would have bought you, even if I had to get into debt.

– My stuffed?

– It does not eat, and keep it for less than a living brother, is not it?

– …

– …

Nervous silence.

Only whistled a heavy hammer, which at high speed continued waving Akari.

– So get ready to turn into a h …

– Oh, I understand, I understand everything! – Hastily replied Thor.

He realized that his sister could really beat him to death. Scarecrow him to become even less desirable.Work, though, too, but he knew that to bargain for a dream too late – it is necessary to consider how to escape from this hell.

– Let's you know, uh, uh, have lunch or something.

– We have no more food, – said Akari, down, finally hammer. – I'm told you last night, we eat up the last.

– P … right?

– I believe that is my favorite astute brother forgets the words.

– …

Thor looked at the ceiling and a long sigh.

To be honest, he does not remember, she said it for dinner or not. He was accustomed to pass her kitchen talking on deaf ears and the more they are not remembered.

– Brother … – Akari again raised the hammer.

– I Understood, understood, go and look for something for breakfast !!!

Prosvistevshy air hammer Akari paused for a moment before, as it struck the face screaming through the Torah.

***

He walked down the street, and every now and then to feel the piercing gaze.

This scent was developed in the Torah perfectly, and because such views irritated him more than anything else. But at the same time, he realized that he is not only new, but also clearly does not fit the situation. And so complain no sense.

– … – Reflexively he sighed.

On the right stood a rickety house. And the left too. The dilapidated houses stretched off into the distance as far as the eye could see. Do not be around people, these old dilapidated building could be easily mistaken for ruins. Houses with oblezshey paint and cracks in the walls looked chic – for the most part they were just that rickety. At some missing roof, and the rain and the wind they defended waterproof blankets, smeared with grease. Of course, live in these homes … but not safe to live, as you know, we have the means.

If something is not smacked decline, so is the air.

Of course, the air that fills the streets, is neither elegant nor charming … but he was full of life, or rather, the smell of dirt and vivacity.

The street itself is constantly emerging market.

That is why here and there were a surprising number of people who were waiting for … even shopping, and wooden boxes, laid out on them “goods” that are called by this word can be a stretch. Everywhere could be seen of men and women, and selling all sorts of rubbish, and wild vegetables, and it is not clear how the meat.Among the crowds of adults running around laughing children dressed in rags, and grunting pigs, which are discharged from the houses that they were looking for on the street edible garbage.

Their country had fallen.

They burned down the street.

Their friends and parents were killed.

But … while these people were alive, they could not give up. Those who did not fall into the abyss of despair, and do not put an end to his own life with his own drinking dirt, gnawed the roots, but lived. This place is full of such strong spirit of the people. That is why, despite all the turmoil, the air is filled with life.

And that is why the Torah … so stood out on their background.

He was, as always sullen, apathetic as ever, and it seemed that even the air around him began to smell the sunset and decline.

– …

He walked along the southern edge of Delsoranta, the region's capital. In these districts the refugees lived.

Fortunately – if so, of course, it can be said – after a protracted war in the city lacked the abandoned houses, lost their tenants. Many of the refugees have come here from other countries and regions, repaired the abandoned house and settled in them.

Of course, the indigenous inhabitants of the city were very happy not displaced, but never actively tried to fight them. The realization that the long-awaited peace, and life goes on, led to the fact that the concept of reciprocity is not only beginning to come back into the minds of the citizens, but also helped them to overcome the difference in position.

It was the post-war chaos.

In most countries, the rulers, the nobility and knights were engaged in restoration of political systems, and to the lives of ordinary people have not got around. Therefore, the poor did not wait for help from above, and organized everything themselves. In the streets the air like a vital atmosphere of the struggle for daily existence.

Abandoned house in which they settled with Akari, was also in this quarter refugees.

For six months they spent wandering in search of a place that you can call home. Of course, in the end, they were in a corner Delsoranta, in an area which receives all the remaining refugees.

They lived together with her sister.

They did not know about, where were their parents and relatives.

Shortly after the war, their family was scattered all over the world, and they do not even know that was there in the living someone other than them. However, from their homes they left in full dress, and many of them were strong and brave people, like the rest of the refugees, so that perhaps they survived and settled somewhere else.

– Heavens, the Torah – handed the old lady's voice, sitting on a chair by the side of the basket and Pletsch.

Thor forgot her name, but I remember his face. More than once he met her, when only the refugees settled in the quarter. It was hopeless good-natured, often mediates in family quarrels, helped look simple work, and thanks to its rich experience of life there were rumors that she was the life of this district and its domination.

– How strange to see you on the street.

– Probably, – lazily replied Thor.

He already knew that it was heard in the following sentence.

– Do not make Akari do for you all the work. You also need to find something to do.

– …

"None of your business" Words almost able to leave his throat, but Thor managed to stop them.

Since the Torah was not working, he was forced to admit that it feeds his Akari. But as has been Akari Akari and many do not understand how to behave in society, and to make her out … not very good. And indeed, find a relatively good job of living among the refugees, it is very difficult. Actually, that's why this morning it turned out that they have nothing to eat …

– Someday … if I want to – the Torah said, waved his hand and the old woman walked past.

Toru was unemployed.

That's just … it does not mean that he was fired from the last job, and he was looking for a new one, or that he studied or trained in order to find a new job. Strictly speaking, he found time to join the guild organization of this city, though technically … but in fact he had never in his life did not make any particular operation.

In other words, he was a beggar without any income, and most importantly – do not feel the slightest desire anything about it. He was a parasite in its purest form.

Perhaps many people would agree that it is for this reason that my sister tried to attack him with a hammer in the morning … Perhaps they would even add that it is inevitable. Of course, for the Torah itself, which in this case was almost killed, it was not a comfort.

– "Work" means … – ironic tone whispered Torah.

If he spoke to someone, I do it to himself. After making sure that his back was still pulling the weight hanging hatchet, the Torah was a block of refugees towards the southern gate Delsoranta.

***

The board has laid down the pen, and there was a long sigh.

Although Konrath Steinmetz and set to work only half an hour ago, he had felt extremely tired. However, this was to be expected, because fatigue was growing day by day and all did not want to leave him.

He looked at the full-length mirror that stood at the entrance to the office next to a hanger for hats, and saw in it a reproachful, haggard eyes middle-aged men. It seemed to him that lately he had begun to fall past the hair remaining on the sides of the head. Already in the very near future, it shone final baldness.

– By the way … – suddenly she turned to him his assistant, Karen Bombardier, which he

could barely see over the mountain of documents on his desk vysivsheysya.

Apparently, seeing as Konrath put down the pen, she decided that he took a break. Adjusting finger glasses framing her nervously looking face, she continued indifferently:

– With regard to the case.

– What happened?

Konrath This year marks 58 years. He was sure that his memory has remained as good as in the old days, but at the same time, he could not remember all the details of dozens of documents that pass through it every day.

Members of the Agency to accelerate the post-war reconstruction, “Kliman,” in which they were composed with the Karen, they have always been occupied by the throat. The number of issues requiring discussion and consideration, is increasing every day with such speed that it is clearly not strong enough to deal with everything.

End Wartime changed the lives of the entire continent Ferbist, and not all of these changes were for the better.

The war was a time with a simple and clear system of values. When she stopped, the system naturally began to change, and nothing could be done.

Policy has been changed. It changed the economy. Everything has changed.

Especially those false changed policy (which became commonly known) to justify their actions by saying that the war was considered the “right thing.” Now, however, they had to think seriously about the future and about what policy to adhere to.

“There is a war, do not think of luxury.”

“If we lose the war, then we’ll take it. Do you really want that? ”

All these words, they sent the popular discontent towards other states, no longer work.

Each country has accumulated a mountain of unresolved problems.

All believed that once the war is over as soon as comes the “world”, all the troubles and worries will disappear immediately. These beliefs led many to survive the difficult war years. But when prolonged, stretching for many centuries the war suddenly ended, it turned out that no one imagined how specifically should look like the “world”, which all want.

The nobility was forced to change their thinking.

Of course, there were aristocrats who were able to quickly adapt to the new times. But many of them have tried to lead his men against the same strict policy as in time of war, for which he immediately and paid dearly.People who did not know how specifically should look like “peace”, but overflowing with the expectations associated with the new era, very

quickly felt dissatisfaction with the fact that their life is no easier.

And as a result … even now the continent Ferbist now and then flashed revolts and uprisings.

Knight's sword, which once defended their homeland, addressed to the inhabitants of these lands.

But, of course, know this state of affairs is also not satisfied.

Moreover, it was the city and the whole country, where life is really improving.

Perhaps some of them were lucky and got some skilful rulers, but there were places where peace has begun to take proper contours without any major problems. Some countries and cities after the measures for improvement of the economy can already be described as prosperous.

Know which expects to repeat the success of these rare exceptions, began to exchange information with each other. Magee, many of whom were left without work after the war, were again in demand – they spell it possible to establish contact and to hold conferences.

Hundreds of hours spent on these conferences urgent study of previously useless disciplines – politics and economics.

Of course, the information turned out to be complicated and confusing.

To avoid chaos (as well as to organize information and develop on this basis a suitable plan of action), the country united to form an international governmental body.

And there was the Agency to accelerate the post-war reconstruction, "Kliman."

Its main task was to study the ideal of governance practices and promoting them in different countries.

We can say the future Ferbista rested on the shoulders of the organization.

But the questions that she was trying to solve, there were many, and the people in it – little offensively.

– Question about the heritage of the Devil.

– … So-oo.

Face Conrat frowned.

Among all the accumulated problems this was one of the most scrupulous.

– Gillette squad tomorrow arrives in Delsorant. We've received notice yesterday.

– In Delsorant …

Taking a small bookshelf list of noble families, he ran through his eyes.

Delsorantom rules …

– Clearly, he is one of the “heroes” who participated in the “overthrow of the Devil.”

– This does not necessarily mean that it owns them, – said Karen. – Whatever it was, we sent him a written request for assistance, but no reply received.

– Well, that was to be expected – with a sigh said Konrath. – All of us – are busy people, so tired. Some to the point that they even do not have time even to say “I do not have time for your nonsense.”

– What do we do?

– Let versed in place – Konrath said. – We also do not have time to engage in ever some question simply because he “may” pose a threat. Riots. Epidemics. Currency crises. Conflicts on a national basis. We are already inundated with cases, pose a real threat.

With these words, he pointed to the mountain of documents in front of him.

– You got it. I agree with you.

Karen nodded. Apparently, the height of the paper tower irritated her no less.

More on this topic they are not talking.

That’s just …

“Still he deserved the nickname Devil” – mentally whispered Konrath. – “We continue to be afraid of even the shadow left after his death.”

Arthur Gas. Gas Emperor Empire.

Devil, damned Emperor, the great sage, Berserker, the Wise Emperor – just a few of his nicknames. His death marked the end of a long war, swept Ferbist. It seemed that the emperor itself became a symbol of the war.

But…

“Well, let’s hope that our fears are groundless,” – thought Konrath, picking up the pen and back to work on the documents lying on the table.

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– Damn, – he muttered under his breath Torah, continuing to move forward with one hand and clutching the ax. – Damn, how annoying. If you think about it, even that – the more labor. Damn, how could I not want to do it all. I told you – work for losers. Damn it. Yes scram it all! Why money does not just fall on my head. So it would be much faster.

These words are impossible to accurately describe his hopelessly futile nature.

No, of course, he went to rob people of what he did not have money.

Before the eyes of the Torah was located mountain grove overgrown with tall grass.

Delsorant was a classic example of a fortified city.

On three sides it is surrounded by mountains, and the convenience of transportation, he was no different, but, on the other hand, it was hard to besiege and easy to defend. Such cities have appeared thanks to the countless wars that unleashed the powerful, and through them also became the capital. That is only after these wartime fortress turned into a remote and inconvenient cities built is not clear where.

Whatever it was, just behind Delsorantom began extensive mountainous terrain.

On the one hand, it was rich in both plants and animals … and on the other, represent a significant danger to the unprepared traveler to mountain hikes. That is why in addition to hunters and loggers in these places very few people wandered.

Torah thought that here he would be able to find wild vegetables, or catch some small game – rabbits or mice.

But…

– Damn … Akari

He punched hatchet way through the bushes, and on every stroke in the air flew leaves.

Thor caught his mouth one of the falling leaves in front of the eyes and said:

– Is she still waiting for something from me?

It’s been over a year since fate brought them Delsorant.

Anyone would have surrendered and given up hope at the sight of his brother every day just sit back … but Akari still trying to ignite a flame in it and make it work.

It is registered in the guild Delsoranta Torah.

She herself was also registered in her, but she, apparently, did not like to work for others, and so she constantly changed jobs. And given the aforementioned oddities in her picture of public life, it is only in the dirty work finally began to push down, for which no one else was taken. She did not even notice it and, ultimately, wages have virtually absent.

If you think about it, and Delsorant, and other city-fortress, built with the expectation of self, and the refugees resettled here could not count on a good job. This was especially true of newcomers.

– She in fact absolutely not a bad appearance. Why did not she just find yourself a good man and did not live at his expense?

She in fact did not need to try to drag myself stupid brother.

Even the Torah itself it would be better if she left him. In the end, it would be so hungry that he would come to these mountains. Of course, it would quickly monotonous vegetables he was tired, especially in the absence of the simple pleasures of life like bread, cheese, salt and pepper.

But this he would have wondered if it really happened.

– And even if she insists that we are brother and sister, first because we were strangers to each other … seriously, we are already late so called – continued to mutter the Torah, making his way through a mountain grove.

As mentioned earlier, this area was virtually deserted. Even animal tracks were rare, and often overgrown proved so thick that the foot step was nowhere. Thor himself was accustomed to such places and I felt pretty good, but inexperienced people wandered here, probably would have encountered many difficulties.

But…

– A?

Torah abruptly stopped.

His attention was attracted by a strange sound.

– What is it?..

He held his breath, listened carefully … and again heard the sound. The rustle of grass. And, apparently, the sound source is very close.

Something was moving through the grass.

– Animal ..?

Looking more closely, he noticed that the bushes in front of him really rocked.

And the size of the plot of grass sways, he could estimate the size of swarming in her creation.

It was the size of a man … or even more.

– …

Torah immediately appreciated the distance between them.

Something about 15 meters. If it is a beast, he could overcome this distance for a moment, even in such a difficult terrain.

Toru prepared.

If a deer or wild boar, this was the perfect target for production, but if there had been a wolf or a bear – and would have had to think about survival.

And if it turns feil … Tohru decided this is not to think.

Because “come to terms with death” would be the most sensible choice.

“However, where there feil?” – Thought the Torah as if it does not have to be afraid of.

AND…

– ..

From grass suddenly I heard a sound quite unlike the animal.

Thor thought about what he looked like. It was a mechanical clatter, like hitting a wooden box on a stone. In any case, none of the animals with the sound does not move. Birds and insects such sounds also not published.

Torah again strained his ears. This time, he heard the sound of rubbing something on the ground.

“What the?”

It is unlikely that this was a hunter or woodsman.

And that means …

– …

Then out of the grass suddenly stuck his face.

– …A?

Thor looked at him, raising his eyebrows so that his forehead was formed vertical furrow.

This creature is absolutely not fit this place. It is here seemed quite unnatural and unexpected.

Simply put … this was a human girl.

In appearance she was 14-15 years old.

Delicate and charming features.

Long hair slightly silver shone in the rays of the sun filtering through the trees, illuminating the forest gloom.Mated color white decoration very contrasted with large violet eyes, whom she looked around and blinked, recalling the actions of a small animal.

But this animal was clearly not predator.

Moreover, her body clad in black robes, looked very gentle. It seemed that the hunted, rather, her.

View fragile girl alone wade through the mountains, unusual in itself, but her appearance made him an extraordinary and even, quite simply, bizarre. Her black dress strewn with lace and jewelry, and it is clearly not intended to travel through the mountains. In fact, the dress had already cling leaves and broken twigs, which she picked up along the way.

In her arms she had no ax to hacking through the thicket, not even a staff.

Her appearance was like the exact opposite of how dressing seasoned hunters and loggers. He would look unnatural, even on the street. These clothes were the most noble place in the ball.

The girl is clearly asking for disaster.

Its lightweight clothing if mocked the mountain.

But at the same time …

“What it is?”

When the Torah at first mistook her for a very big game, it happened because the girl was dragging behind her a size of a load itself. She was carrying a huge box unthinkable dark wood. Because of him, she was troubled when moving a lot more grass.

But it was not just a box …

“…Coffin?”

The box looked like an elongated octagon on the horizontal. As far as he knew the Torah, this form could only have the coffin.

Naturally, the container for the old service is obliged to hold an adult’s body is larger than the girl herself.She dragged him along on the leather straps. It seemed that from such treatment coffin will immediately crack and break … but he seems to have been surprisingly strong – on its surface there was not a scratch.

That’s just … what she was doing to him?

Even if the tomb was empty, and it must be very difficult.

Anyway, it’s not exactly the kind of thing which usually roamed children … especially in the mountains. Maybe she used it instead of a sleeping bag? However, then it is not clear why, from one of the sides to attach it was something like a lamp.

Of course, the coffin certainly more comfortable and safer to sleep than a cheap cloth bag …

– Hey, – he stood bewildered Torah and called the girl. – Hey, you. What are you doing?

– …! – Startled girl turned toward the Torah.

And without that big purple eyes surprise became even more, and she stared at them precisely on him.

– What are you doing in the mountains odi … – in a sense, the Torah began to ask the question, which was entitled to expect a quick response.

But…

– …?!

He had to break off in mid-sentence.

There was a sharp rustling sound, and the girl with the coffin again plunged into the grass.

– Hey ..!

Not expecting such a reaction Thor stepped forward and called her again. But in the next moment I rustled the grass, and he saw the swaying bushes are beginning to move away from him.

It looks like she was trying to escape. And quite briskly.

– …

But, in contrast to the city streets, to get lost easier than in the mountain forests.

It is hard even to walk in a straight line. Not accustomed to the mountains skirting the obstacles encountered people quickly forget which way to go, and soon began to wander in circles. Whatever may seem silly situations, they often arose.

And now …

– …

Thor squinted and watched as the girl tried to go in one direction and then the other, but always about something Stukalo briefly cried out and tried to go somewhere else. Finally, after a few blind strokes and turns it again found herself in front of the Torah.

And then…

– …

– Welcome back – turned to face the Torah vyglyanuvshey grass girls, mentally adding “that played enough?”.

Between them there was something about a couple of meters. Do Torah couple of steps forward and would be able to reach her hand.

– …?!

Girl froze with amazement views.

Because Akari face such emotions are not usually capable of, the Torah, this reaction seemed funny.

It is uncertain twitching arms and legs.

Look left, then right, she turned back to him.

And after all the movements … excited girl froze.

– On…

– On?

Tohru bowed his head in amazement. The girl, still looking exactly at him, threw forward finger.

– Attack?

– Who? On whom?

In fact, the Torah knew what she wanted to say, but I still asked.

– You. For me, – said the girl, showing a finger first at him, then at herself.

To some degree … the gesture was a little impudent. It seemed that the girl did not restrain himself, although he had seen for the first time. On the other hand, it looked as if his very afraid.

– …

– …

Thor looked at the girl half-closed eyes.

She looked back at him from the bottom up.

The air between them is beginning to emerge stress.

And then…

– You want me to attack you?

– … – The girl shook her head. – Bandit. No?

– Bandits alone can not run hither.

– …

– I, unfortunately, at the moment totally unemployed.

– Hunter …? – Asked the girl, bringing her eyebrows and examining face Torah.

– I told you – the unemployed – with a sigh echoed Torah.

No, sometimes he used to catch small animals. But after that call themselves professional hunter he lacked audacity.

– I have nothing to eat, and I went to the mountains to look for vegetables.

To be honest, he himself was unpleasant to say the words … but he knew that if he starts to complain about life after all that done, Akari may well snap at him with a hammer.

– … It is clear – the girl said, nodding his head several times.

Her face suddenly appeared contented smile, and then she again threw forward finger pointing exactly on the nose of the Torah.

– Beggar!

– Yeah, it is clear that the rich unemployed … no, maybe there are, but if you once call me a beggar, I can get angry – with a sigh, said Toru.

The most surprising was the fact that although the girl and called him to the poor (it is difficult to argue, as the Torah is so impoverished that today could not even breakfast), her face did not express any contempt or nasmehatelstva over him. Rather, it looked like she was in awe of something she had seen very rarely.

– Beggar. Clear. Beggar – he kept repeating it and nod.

"What's wrong with her?"

The impression … if she knew what the word "beggar", but had never seen these beggars.

– You'd better answer. Yes, you are. What are you doing? Why do you wander here? – With these words the Torah once again looked at the black coffin, which she was dragging behind. – With this coffin. In these places even local wander extremely rare.

– A…

This time, her response was obvious – she rolled her eyes and looked over his shoulder.

After that immediately I started, lowered the coffin on the ground, pushed into the grass and stood in front of him … Is she trying to hide it? Then she squinted at the Torah and said:

– …Saw?

– Well, it's hard not to notice – sadly replied Thor.

Still, the coffin of the size larger than the girls, and it was impossible to see.

– Did not see.

-?

– You did not see him.

– Well … okay, whatever you say, – scratching their heads, said the Torah.

And it's a girl whispered gruffly:

– I thought that in a few mountain walks … and thought it would be a good idea …

These words she said, not on the continental language and the language of Lax, used in the northern lands.Torah has already wondering what she was talking in a strange and sketchy, but it is now clear that it is probably somewhere in the north. Continental was clearly unusual for her, but she spoke to Lax fluently.

– What are you, some kind of criminal?

Another explanation for the fact that it is part of the people and decided to wade through the mountains, the Torah did not come up.

Let Delsorant and was not the most convenient location of the city, between the mountains was a road that went carts and carts. No normal person would not have without any exceptional circumstances to wade through the mountains with heavy luggage.

– Barker! Nahal! Ham! – Release your finger in the direction of the Torah and stared at him, the girl said.

She again went to the continental language. Of course, the Torah and understand it either way … but still it was easier when she spoke at the Continental.

– Then why are you so afraid to fall on the people's eyes?

– …?! – The girl frozen with a look of astonishment on his face.

Apparently, she did not expect that the Torah understands the language Lak.

– … – It is once again beginning to mistrust a sidelong look at him.

In her eyes was read doubt, uncertainty, anxiety, alertness and many other wide variety of feelings. Eyes she resembled a wild cat, trying to figure out who is in front of it – an enemy or an ally.

– Okay it does not matter. I do not care, you're a criminal or not – with a shrug, Toru said.

With the end of the war was only a few years. Many of the people who were born at the time, believed that the murders and robberies were not something out of the ordinary. In addition, the post-war reconstruction is pursued only the restoration of political systems, and amendments to the laws of the matter has not yet been reached. In fact … the line between crime and its absence can sometimes be almost imperceptible. There were frequent cases when a person is accused of a criminal, while he did not know that doing something illegal.

No, really. These cases were quite frequent.

– Whatever it was … – Thor said, sighing again.

During their short conversation, he had to understand a few things.

This girl was a non-local neighborhood and almost did not know.

Moreover, judging by her speech and dress, she especially had no experience or knowledge of how to behave in the mountains. She got out of the box looked like a princess, who knew nothing about the world.

– Do you … need something to Delsorante?

– Consent – said the girl and nodded.

– How much time do you have to wander on this mountain?

– Three days.

– …

Surprisingly, it all still alive.

Thor looked at it again from the top to the socks …

– Listen. By you…

– Mmm?

– The money is there?

– Money? Money? – She said, blinking.

Then, as if resigned to everything, she boldly nodded and folded her arms.

– Surrender. Rogue!

– What other robber? Stop poking me! – Toru said, waving from the fingers, which she

triumphantly sent to it.

– M? Robber. No?

– No.

– The robber?

– No.

– …Assassin?

– Why are you so much want to, I was the culprit?

– Um …

The girl folded her arms and thought.

"Maybe she really wants it attacked?" – Thought the Torah, then sighed again.

– With you two breakfasts for the services of a guide.

– …? – The girl looked at the Torah.

Realizing that she does not possess insight, he briefly explained:

– You want to get into Delsorant unnoticed, right? I do not know why you need it, but if you wander so, then there and the week will not reach.

– M ?!

– If so are you going to the mountains, then even if the card before it looked. If you knew where to go, I would not have wandered for three days. It is obvious that you have lost.

In the end, when she tried to escape from the Torah, immediately I made a circle and returned to the same place. Most likely, she was trying to pass along the mountain directly, but constantly expand and eventually start to wander in circles. Frankly, a good road was not there, and in the bush can be easily confused and forget which direction to go in.

– A shocking fact.

– Itself would have noticed! – I said Toru astonished girl. – I will bring you out of here, so that the two breakfast with you. For me and my sister.

– M …

The girl frowned and folded her hands again.

It can be understood. She unexpectedly meets on the mountain with a man who offered to guide service for breakfast. Her confusion was natural.

– I have already said that the unemployed. I'm not bragging, I did even at s do not have money …

And as soon as he said it all …

"Morzerun, morzerun, erumun" – were heard strange noises.

To be more precise … No, it was not just the sound.

It was the voice.

Someone's low, dark voice, one by one, uttering incomprehensible words.

"Sebrun, vamrun, Torun.

Syunerun, horun, Jarun … "

–

The girl blinked.

Thor jumped to the girl.

Both of these actions occurred simultaneously.

– IGL ?! – She cried in surprise.

Torah immediately pulled the girl to the ground … and at the same moment felt something at great speed swept over him.

– Damn! .. – He moaned. – Oh shit!

No sooner had the girl's reply, he immediately took her under his arm and pushed away from the land.

If he stayed where he was, he would have definitely killed. However, the chances of escape also seemed very bleak.

– Uh, uh, hey ?! – I exclaimed Thor, feeling like its something pulls.

the girl's body was surprisingly heavy … or rather, it pulled him back. Turning around, he saw that she still held fast to leather straps.

And behind them with a thud on the ground riding a black coffin.

Given how difficult it is to find on the mountain a place where you can normally set foot, even the girl's great knocks him off balance. And with heavy luggage and did run it became unbearably difficult.

– You what ?! Come on!

– No, – said the girl immediately.

Whatever spun the Torah, he saw only the back of the leg and girls. He could not tell, with what face she said, it's like, but her tone was quite serious.

– Shit! – Exclaimed the Torah.

Above his head flew the black shadow.

After breaking a few trunks, branches and making the air more difficult turns, very close to running Torah landed …

– Still, it feil ..!

It was … strange-looking horse.

Although you can be called a horse being very dark color, who can easily jump on the branches, with a strange offshoot from the forehead … and most importantly, with clearly predatory fangs?

– Unicorn ..!

Traditional horse lived on the plains.

Their hooves, legs and all body structure designed for high-speed racing on the expanses. In any case, certainly not for the mountains and forests full of obstacles.

But unicorns, one type of Feil, did not obey the logic and common sense.

Even though they were larger than normal horses, but perfectly oriented in space, moving around the bush confident than squirrels and monkeys.

And, even though they were like the horses were predatory hunters.

– Shit! .. – Said in a panic Torah.

Trying to overtake Feil in the mountains, the more a unicorn, it was the peak of stupidity. Especially when he was forced to pull a baggage in the most literal sense of the word.

And that means …

– There remains only one thing …

Indeed, the choices he had little.

He was not here for the first time and more or less imagined terrain. Glancing at the sun filtering through the treetops, Toru determine where they looked, I chose the angle of movement … and a point of destination.

– Hey! – He asked the girl, which is still held by a hand. – Forget what I said, and would not let go of his coffin!

– M?

“Morzerun, morzerun, erumun.

Sebrun, vamrun, Torun.

Syunerun, horun, Jarun … ”

Again he heard the voice.

And then…

– Come on!

Interrupt sight trees suddenly ended.

Memories did not disappoint.

There was only one …

– Hold your breath !!! – I shouted the Torah and struggled pushed off the land.

And the next time …

– HN .. – I dropped a bit silly girl.

In the space left its mark rushing at high speed black shadow.

But all these events have been indifferent to the Torah, which, together with the girl, and the coffin was flying off a cliff located right in the bottom of the swamp.

***

Mysterious horse flying through the mountain forest, like an arrow … but when the Torah and the girl disappeared, he immediately froze.

He became suddenly so quiet, as if completely transformed. It did not feel a single drop of the ferocity with which he pursued the Torah. Moreover, he seemed so lifeless, and his eyes were so empty, it began to seem as if he had died on the go.

And then…

– Hmm .. – muttered the man, making his way through the thicket.

He was quite low and wore robes embroidered with brown and dark green. Because of this, in the forest it is almost merged with the surrounding area. And because he, like any human being, there was no clear outlines, this disguise was even more effective.

But this careful preparation is not limited to men.

His face was clean-shaven head and also had something painted … and the long cover over the back, like a sword scabbard, wrapped green and brown belts in the color of the rest of the garment.

– I missed them? – With a sigh, he whispered.

Because it was difficult to make out the painted faces, even the facial features, not to mention the expression.

But he was standing next to a unicorn, though not quite afraid of him, and looked into the valley, which jumped Torah. At its center is the river flowed.

– Am I prepared badly? Maybe even worth the wait Gillette? .. – He voiced his thoughts to himself.

And then…

– Although it is not. This opportunity should not be missed.

According to camouflage on his face he ran the white line.

The man was smiling so broadly that his teeth.

– Okay. Already in this time you will not leave me.

With that, the man turned to stagnation, as a statue, unicorn, and took hanging on the back cover.

***

Most likely, unconscious, he spent only a few seconds.

Otherwise, he would certainly have drowned along with the girl.

– Nga ..!

The first thing that made the Torah, regaining consciousness, realized that still gripped the girl by the hand.

Though his mouth and bubbles escaped, arms and legs obey, and then he was still alive and conscious.

Fortunately for them, the coffin of a girl who is for nothing did not want to let go, she fulfilled its role and has emerged. When he heard the rumbling sound to some, I began to suspect, and now finally convinced that the coffin is either empty or close to it. Water pushed it up with sufficient force to manage to stay afloat, and the Torah, and the girl.

– Kx ... about ...

Torah of the last forces held out his hand in the opposite direction.

On both sides near the river were trees, and their branches were attracted to him, but the Torah could not reach nor to one.

But ... after a shower gone part of the land, exposing tree roots. Battling with the surprisingly rapid stream, Thor managed the third attempt to grasp the root of a tree and pull himself and the girl coffin.

He lay on the mossy rocks at the shore and began to breathe heavily, looking up at the sky.

He felt very tired. It seemed that he had spent more than half of all its forces.

Glancing toward the girl, he saw that she struggled clears his throat. However, the first thing after she saw that the coffin is all right (apparently, it was more important to her than anything else), and then finally turned to the Torah.

– Suddenly. Violently. Insanely ...

And after that ...

– M ?! – She froze with wide-eyed.

– What?..

– Blood?!

She held a finger.

Torah with displeasure looked at the rock on which he lay.

... She gradually painted in pale brown.

Blood. It flowed from the wound on his back, mixed with water on the clothes and gradually poured on the rock. Unlike dyes, when mixed with water it does not become pink blood, and regained a brownish tint.

– And ... – sluggish replied Thor. – I blundered.

– Blundered? .. – The girl approached him and scrutinized his back. – Me. Protect. Because of this?

– And ... well ... yes.

Naturally, the Torah did not see his back and could only guess at the seriousness of his condition.

It seems that the wound did not reach the bone, but it was smooth and went deep into the back as if he slashed the sword. At least, the feelings.

– What can you do …

– Help. Urgently.

The girl immediately reached into the pockets of clothing, trying to find something. With every movement she sprayed water … but found nothing useful.

– No … – she whispered sadly.

– No, no, I'll be all right. Probably – lazily Toru said.

In the end, it was his own body. If they spent more time in the water, he would lose too much blood, too cold and freeze to death … but because the wound did not hurt bones and hardly damaged muscle, the Torah understood that the bleeding will not last long.

That's just …

– Here it is – the result of starvation?

He had no strength. Bleeding and swimming in cold water marsh exhausted him so much that hung heavy burden on the body fatigue. Rather, its role is played by the lack of proper food lately.

– A chance to get out … it looks like, no, – said the Torah as if not talking about myself.

His life was in danger, but even now in his voice and facial expression does not have the feeling of tension.Not that he enjoyed the scene. He was just such a person.

– Against feil … besides unicorn, I can not do anything.

– …

The girl was silent.

Despite the slightly haughty look, she behaved pretty stupid … and obviously did not realize how bad the situation was, when for you on the mountain woods chasing feil.

– Useless. It's a dead end. I wash hands.

Thor tried to shrug. From the wounds he ran back pain, making him wince.

– Confused I have, of course, was a life … – he whispered, bringing the verdict itself.

– Confused. A life? – Said the girl, blinking.

It seemed as if she did not understand the meaning of these words.

– Give up?

– Well … yes, – Torah sluggish smiled and nodded.

– Die?

– Probably.

– Bad.

– Maybe so, – Thor shrugged again.

– Death. Do not be scared? – Said the girl, pointing a finger at him.

– A? How to say. Not that I'm not afraid …

With these words, the Torah took from her eyes.

He himself was not sure why it did.

– It's just … I'm from the outset did not know how should I live, – he said with a self-deprecating grin. – In this world.

He did not know what to strive for.

He did not know what to wish for.

He was no longer anything, what he wanted to do.

He no longer wanted to be anyone or anything.

He did not have any specific desires or hopes, and one day he noticed that just living day by day, nothing thinking.

Find a real job?

And then what?

He will earn his bread, once married, lived in the house in the corner of the city, grow old and die. All this time, they will wait for the same day, counting down the time allotted.

Have they had any sense?

Is anything would change if he died right here?

What he did was born?

He could not help wondering these unanswered questions. No matter how he tried, he was not expecting a reward. He knew that a person is not capable of much. He could only live and die, and without affecting a tiny corner of the world.

He could not do anything. I do not leave anything behind.

He lived like an insect or animal.

Meaning of life.

The goal to which we should strive.

Once he did, and then, and more – he had a clear goal, which he never doubted. But once it taken away.

And that is why the Torah ceased to understand what to do, and for the last year dropped to such a life.

One could say that it withered.

– Once I had something I wanted to do – Thor shrugged again – but this time there. I lost my purpose. I can only live by inertia.

– …

For a while she looked at the Torah with his head.

– Find another – she again pointed a finger at him.

It was as if she gave the order.

– A?

– Right now. Find. One more. Goal – she said, as if uttered quite obvious.

That's just …

– Too late.

– Why?

– To be honest, other talents I have.

The former goal of his life.

He spent chasing her all his days.

He had no time to develop any other skills or learn something else. Toru considered himself a plate of baked clay. Because it is no longer possible to make the pitcher. Even if he tried to become a different person, he would have turned bad.

But…

– …

Suddenly the girl …

– A-ah ?!

… Toru rapped briskly on the back.

– What are you all doing ?!

– A. apology. Regret.

– Your regrets will not help!

Let his wound was not deep, for it very painful blows.

– … Same – suddenly said the girl, pointing to himself.

– What are you?

– Confused. The same. I know how … only one.

And with that … she suddenly stretched out his hands to standing close to the coffin and opened it.

As you might guess from their recent voyage, most of it is empty. But…

– It's … – Thor's eyes widened in amazement.

The girl pulled out steel instruments.

First Torah thought it was a cavalry gun … but no.

Long, very long iron shaft.

The mechanism, which is screwed to it.

Sniper scope.

Wooden handle on the mechanism for which the weapon had to keep. Two legs for fixing to the ground.

This … Gundo.

This word called magicians tools that are used for fire spells. Knights fought with swords, archers use bows and arrows, magicians have used guns. In other words, the presence of Gundo meant that people – magician.

– So you're … a magician?

– Consent.

The girl smiled proudly … and then started to collect Gundo loud clicking parts.

Even though it was clear even from the size of the details, but a tool is larger than the girl. Cold blued steel wonderfully contrasted with the warm brown wood handle.

– Just this. No other talents. But.

Finally the girl spread her legs gun and put it in the coffin.

– With this. Much. To be able to.

– You mean …

Thor's eyes narrowed.

He himself was not a magician, and did not know many details. But … he had heard about what they were capable of.

Magic Gundo were long, heavy, difficult to handle and completely portable, which makes their use on the go almost impossible. Typically they must be locked prior to use, or at least not to move.

But … a volley of it did not go to any comparison with the blow of the sword or spear.

Not only that, they are extremely long-range, after quite a long preparation can be independently destroy the whole castle with one blow. It was rumored that Emperor Damned and the Devil, the last emperor of the Empire Gas Gas Arthur, whose death marked the end of the war, was a magician with such force that he could compare his spells with the earth mountains and dry river.

And that means …

– Instead of running from a unicorn … we can kill him?

– Probably, – said the girl, strange smile and nod.

Most likely, she did not doubt his skills magician.

– But. During the ritual … no move.

– Not surprising…

It was natural. Despite the incredible power of magicians, they had no place on the front line. They were in the rear, supporting the troops. Armed with long and heavy Gundo, require long setup before shots were magicians, to put it mildly, not designed for close combat.

And that means …

– Please use the search spell to find to fail. Then use the attacks …

He stopped in mid-sentence.

– …

– …

The girl froze.

Tohru sighed.

He did not even have to turn around.

In the wide-eyed girl she reflected landscape behind the Torah. Rather, it reflects the black horse, made his way through the trees.

And besides …

“Morzerun, morzerun, erumun.”

The body on his head, for convenience called “horn”, glowing from within.

Muzzle horse gradually moved and the light leaving a trail … but it did not disappear, but continued to hang in the air. Moreover, he began to emerge it difficult writing.

“Sebrun, vamrun, Torun.

Syunerun, horun, Jarun. ”

It was … a magic circle.

“Fail”.

This word is called the animals capable of using magic.

If people can not use magic without their instruments, Gundo (more specifically, the use of spells without Gundo require such a complex preparation that, in practice, this was the case), then feil could cast spells, using only their bodies. Feil had bodies, which are themselves able to make spells and shoot them. If it were unicorns their horns.

And therefore…

– Listen … – said Toru, stubbornly refuses to take his eyes off the girl and turn. – If I win time, you can?

– M?

– If I distract him, you will be able to use magic?

– Consent of ….

The girl nodded.

The distance was only for magicians “shield” against enemy attacks. In fact, nothing prevented the magic hit the target, located quite close.

So … the Torah could have saved their lives by providing the girl enough time to spell creation.

– This thing against feil fight will not be easy – the Torah said, pulling out of the sheath on his belt ax.

Of course, it was too spicy, but was designed for hiking in the mountain forests and Cutting through through the thicket, not for battle.

But … now is not the time to dream of a more convenient weapon. He has to fight the fact that he has.

Axe … and one technique that he knew so well.

– “I am the steel,” – said softly Torah.

– M .. – immediately repeated the girl, but the Torah did not answer.

He was so concentrated that only her voice reached his ears, but did not penetrate into consciousness.

– “Steel no fear …” “unaware steel doubt” …

To be honest … he was no longer sure that he remembers all the words by heart, but it was worth it to start as they started to fly for a tongue. After all these words, repeated thousands of times, imprinted in the mind so deep that even a few “empty” years could not erase them.

He did not know to enjoy it or not.

Torah really did not know.

– “Standing against the enemy, I will not hesitate.”

In a sense, those words were “key”.

He unlocked a weapon so terrible that they have not used in a normal situation.

Torah clearly felt something inside it varies from each line.

– “I have a gun, carrying your death …”

This technique completely, to the very marrow of his bones, transforms an ordinary person into a living weapon.

It is not just gave him strength.

The whole body is psychologically and physiologically honed to the needs of the battle.

It was beginning to breathe for the battle, the blood drive for the battle, the battle for the sake of thinking. It ceased to be a man.

It becomes a weapon in human form.

It becomes a tool, all parts of which exist for only one purpose.

But … it became inconvenient for human life. The price for the effectiveness in combat became that in the rest of it was beginning to give even the most superior man.

Therefore, it is to be considered as a tool, set back their humanity.

That is why the most dangerous of all such instruments were when taken prisoner. Whatever morality, loyalty and honor did not have a man … he no longer was more himself.

Therefore, these tools must be able to turn back.

Man and gun. The method, which allows to move from one pole to another.

Once upon a time there were people who looked for it.

They make it a reality by creating this technique ... and then formed a clan, in which it was transmitted from generation to generation.

They called it “Zheleznokroviem”.

– * I ...

Body hair stood on end.

Awaken the dormant muscles, nerves were heated by flowing through them thirsty battle. Although the Torah was still similar to the Torah, he was no longer himself to the end.

He became a sword.

His respiration, pulse and thought existed only one purpose – to destroy the enemy is in front of him.

With his face lost emotions.

Moreover ... the girl and the unicorn, is likely to show that his body has changed its color.

The blood vessels of his body came alive, why it seemed that his whole body was covered with tattoos.

From that powerful blood flows close to the surface, rays of light began to refract them, enveloping the body of a weak luminescence. Hair and eyes, sensitive to changes in the blood, immediately changed its color.

Red eyes. The red pupils. Red Tattoo.

The body of the Torah acquired a red hue and it was like a monster in human form.

But...

“Syunerun, horun, Jarun”.

Unicorn finished reading spell.

Magic circle around his horns began to slowly rotate and flash. He seemed to be breathing.

Naturally, feil not afraid of what people in her eyes slightly changed its color.

– Come on, horse ... – Thor said, raising his ax.

The outlines blurred black knight.

And the next time ...

Unicorn jumped at such a rate that the trace left behind him in the air.

A huge black body is repelled from the trees and approached the Torah by confusing sloping trajectory.Whatever it may have been trained to believe in the fact that it is capable of jumping well, it is absolutely impossible. Periodically, it repels all legs of air.

That was the magic unicorn.

At the moment of its utterance it acquired the confidence to stand on any point in space, including air. This monster hunted their prey, jumping over the walls, ceiling and so on, than completely knocked her confused.Moreover, with every jump he gets faster and the end of the flight could easily overtake the boom. Blow powerful fangs huge body at this speed is deadly.

Unicorn was aiming not at the girl, and in the Torah.

The fact that feil know how to use magic, enough to realize that they are much smarter than normal animals.At least, they understand human speech. It looks like a unicorn decided that the Torah more dangerous enemy, and decided to kill him in the first place.

– .. – Torah exhaled sharply, raising the ax.

The next moment, a strong weapon, which he was holding with his left hand, and also, faced with fangs unicorn.

Canines and the blade carved from one another spark.

– …

Of course, the Torah could not stop the onslaught of the unicorn with his body, and they, along with black Feil started to fall in the river … but on the face of the Torah was no anxiety or anger. He only analyzed the situation in your mind, maintaining a perfect calm. His body did not allocate valuable resources on useless grimaces. Even the word “horse”, he said only that to attract enemy attention.

At the unicorn was not claws.

So, this attack he tried or smudge it, or break the fangs.

As the main force of the beast is the speed he had hoped to finish the fight in one fatal blow. But the speed of anything could not help him, because the Torah knew from the start that he would try to cut his throat.

And now…

– Do not go away – Thor whispered, clinging with both hands around the neck of the Unicorn.

“Kyo-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh!” – Howled unicorn.

Underwater battles they disliked most. These feil hunted their prey with the help of the

magical speed … but water, unlike air, could just crush the body of the unicorn, if he tried to accelerate it. We can say that the magic of the water, he could not apply.

And besides …

– It's your speed does not solve anything!

They were close to each other, and speed did not matter. Thor continued to hang from the neck of the Unicorn, and at the same time, once again began to swing one's arms with an ax.

He was aiming … jaw unicorn.

But then …

There was a metallic clang.

Canines closed on the ax. Removing the last bit of strength neck, unicorn literally sank his teeth into the attack Thor.

And this meant that the only weapon Torah became useless.

But at the same time…

– Got you, – said the Torah rather himself.

He continued to dent the ax deeper, saying:

– Now you have your magic can not be used!

Of course, the "core" magic unicorn horn was, but he still could not do without uttering magic words.

However jaw unicorn at this very moment were fully occupied that held the ax Torah in place. Any wrong move could lead to the fact that the Torah would be separated half of his head from the body. Surviving is unable even to fail.

The unicorn looked at the Torah eyes filled with blood. Toru was staring at him through the eyes full of hatred, although under normal conditions in that state for such feelings he did not have time.

– Well … someone who pereterpit? – A barely audible voice, said Toru.

Unicorn could not use magic.

Torah could not take his hands from the ax.

Like the two grappled with each other blade, the Torah and the Unicorn sailed along the river, infusing all the forces in the teeth and an ax.

“But at the same time losing all I”, – he concluded the Torah. I thought it sounded so calm, if he watched the battle from the sidelines.

The back of the Torah was still bleeding from a recent injury. In the water, he could bleed to until not have frozen to death.

Clearly, that has a huge body of the unicorn, not received by the same or a scratch, easy to beat him.

But…

***

The girl lowered her release lever down and then pushed forward.

There was a clang, which was inside the cartridge mechanism. At the same time the spring magic drum side Gundo began with the quiet sound of spinning.

– M …

Finally, the girl launched a right hand in his long hair, as if feeling for something on his neck.

More specifically, she was looking tattooed on her logo.

Her fingers found the most familiar and at the same time a strange place, and then the girl pulled a gun patch cord. She wrapped it around his neck like a collar.

Finally, she joined the emblem on the cord with the logo on the neck, thus connecting our consciousness with Gundo.

– … “The Ripper” – whispered the girl the name of the desired spell to confirm your selection.

This spell was simple, but because – practical, since it took the reading is not much time.

Taking a deep breath, she began to chant.

– Korkt … Elm …

Awakening the magic began to gather in the magic circle.

The air surrounding the girl and a gun, there are several layers of azure symbols and ornaments.

– Naykt inte … … … you naynt-e … – continue reading the girl, carefully choosing his words.

Starting magic long distances required under the spell tuning environment. Besides the obvious things like temperature and humidity, have to take into account the position of the stars and underground energy streams.The more nuances to be taken into account, the

more effective will the spell. That is why casting the same spells in different conditions and at different times, sometimes they had to say different words.

– Do you … Myrtle … ru …

Who surrounded the girl blue magic circles began to spin.

Some of them are connected with each other, finding a new form. On the side it seemed like a confused chaos, but all these circles obeyed the words of the girl and took on a customized shape. Gradually, they became less and less, and they are merged into one clear shape.

They were like the scattered pieces, connecting into a single mechanism.

And then…

***

The first sound, oddly enough, has published an ax Torah.

–

The shrill sound meant that the enemy was able to see through the blade.

Feil waved his head, spit out the pieces and then start reading the spell.

Thor continued to hold on to the neck of the Unicorn, which is pushed away from the surface of the water and flew into the air.

Again he heard the sound of hooves – Unicorn repelled from the air and soared higher. And as soon as he climbed over the mountain tops of the trees … abruptly overturned.

–

And in the next moment I rushed at high speed towards the ground.

They do not just fall down – Unicorn accelerated their movement with his magic.

“Who will pereterpit, you say?” – As if he had said.

If the Torah, without thinking, unhooked from the neck of the Unicorn, he would have instantly killed a his death. In the Torah there was no wings, magic, and in the air, he could not dodge attacks unicorn. He had no weapons and that the attack can be reflected. As soon as he disengaged from the unicorn, he would have waited for the inevitable death.

But he persisted in clinging to the unicorn and swept to the ground with him. Most likely, by the fall, and it would be a unicorn and ripped to shreds.

“Bad…”

Torah and the Unicorn flew straight down.

Torah Consciousness is treated with a combat situation many times faster than normal, to assess the situation. If the unicorn was not going to kill themselves, then at some point it has to slow down, bounced off the air. At this moment of it and need to be disengaged. Giving the enemy to fly in the opposite direction, he would have won yourself a little time.

And then…

– ..

Leg Torah slipped.

“More can not I? ..”

Toru bit his lip.

He thought that stretch a little longer … but hypothermia and blood loss was deprived of his powers unexpectedly quickly. Let ‘Zheleznokrovie “and strengthened his body, it could not return to the forces that have been lost to its application. Moreover, under the influence of this technique, the body waste resources even faster than usual.

Thor looked exhausted from the neck and the unicorn was in the air.

Unicorn immediately hit a hoof on the air … I slowed down and stood at the counter.

In the Torah there was no weapon, he could not use magic, and from the next blow was nothing to defend.

But then …

– Come on … – suddenly there was a girl’s voice. – Appear, “the Ripper”!

And in the next moment …

“! ..”

In reality, it all happened in an instant.

But enhanced vision equipment Torah could see everything in great detail.

From emptiness floated several rotating magic circle surrounding the Unicorn. They immediately closed to within one point of his body.

And then…

“Gëra-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah !!!” – there was the mountain forest a deafening scream.

Unicorn cut in half if a huge invisible blade. Two parts of the carcass flew apart.

And fresh blood was shed rain.

Broken remains feil not flown to the ground – they are stuck in the branches and continued to bleed longer with them. Some still managed to slip through the branches.

–

Torah of the last forces pulled exhausted hands.

He grabbed one of the branches densely growing trees, broke it, grabbed the next branch … and, ultimately, to repay its speed, hanging on the priest on the way particularly thick branch.

– …

Panting, Toru estimated the distance to the ground … and quickly jumped off.

Wet land covered with rotten leaves, with a thud took over his body. In any case, the Torah glanced torn apart unicorn, but the remains were not moving.

He died.

… They killed him.

– …Happened? – I whispered the Torah.

– “I declare this battle finished,” – he began to read the “key”, which returns him to consciousness. – “I am the man” …

Familiar feeling came back to him, and at the same time he felt his insides like a steel-filled, once again began to resemble those of whom has been collected human body. As his body began to pour feeling of partial paralysis.

To be honest, he did not feel any joy from that survive, nor the upliftment of what won.

… There was only

– …

What is it?

It’s strange … the feeling of fullness and completeness.

While the Torah trying to understand what kind of an unfamiliar feeling was born inside his body … a girl’s voice came from the river.

– OK?

– …Yes.

Tohru nodded and, overcoming the heaviness and fatigue, returned to the shore to the

girl. The girl has managed to drop their weapons on the ground, and looked a little bewildered.

– I'm surprised.

– What?

– Strong, – said the girl, pointing his finger at his nose Torah.

– Ah ... – I handed the Torah together with a sigh.

Let it not worth shouting at each corner, but hardly in the conversation with this girl should be cautious too.

– Well, because I was once a saboteur.

Earlier this word called fighters who carried on the special order of battle.

Unlike soldiers and knights, bound hand formalities and morality, the saboteurs were engaged in combat dirty deeds – murder, distracting maneuvers, intelligence and many other things.

That's why they usually do not belong to this or that state, and represented a squad of mercenaries, which these countries are hired. They needed soldiers, from respect of which at any time to disown, but that could solve many uncomfortable questions. That is why saboteurs lived independent groups, and earned a living by selling their skills to all comers.

But...

– When there is war, we become totally useless – the Torah said, laughing at himself.

Exactly.

Saboteurs are important only in the midst of the fighting. As soon as the reigning world powers that are beginning to annoy their skills, because the saboteurs – a very effective force for the riots and uprisings.

Village saboteurs ACURE where grown Torah and Akari, like many others, was destroyed on the orders of the kings of neighboring countries. All its inhabitants, including the Torah, had to die, but they were lucky to find out about the plans of the authorities in advance and saboteurs managed to leave ACURE ... and then came the moment.

Torah from birth was raised for one purpose – he was supposed to be a saboteur.

Its sole purpose in life was to give all of himself in the role of saboteur battles and once burned to the ground in these battles.

But ... this sense of life away from the Torah even before he saw his first battle.

On the continent no longer remains a place where there was war, saboteurs and villages ACURE did not need anyone. It is a little luck saboteurs, and their hired private guards to titled persons … but the others were forced to leave their past lives.

For the battles they were born.

For the battles they were brought up.

And in the battle, and they died.

This fate awaited all who bore the name ACURE, and they should be proud of it.

Battles – is all that connects people named ACURE with this world.

Nothing else did not know the Torah. Anything else it is not taught.

But now, after all that happened …

– Do not useless – there was a girl's voice that made the Torah to recover.

– … Eh?

– Saved. Thanks to you, – she said with an air of importance, his arms crossed over his chest.

Maybe … she was just trying to cheer him up.

But in fact, he knew that it was not flattery and courtesy. She did say what she thought. It is unlikely that it is a man capable of such artful lies.

– Well … probably, such situations occur infrequently.

– Devoutly I agree – the girl smiled and nodded.

And then…

– Re-request.

– M?

– To show the way.

– Ah …

Tohru remembered that it was his own idea.

– Much obliged grateful, uh …

The girl bowed her head.

– … The Torah – he said, realizing that she asked his name. – Toru ACURE. And you?

– Seagull ha … – the girl immediately shook her head. – Not this way. Chaika Trabant.

Toru ACURE, saboteur.

Chaika Trabant, the magician.

The event brought them together … and of course, they did not have a clue about what kind of future awaits them.

Chapter 2

We heard the sound of indifferent knocking each other cutlery.

– …

Torah, ignoring goggles aimed at him, he continued to eat.

Of course, etiquette and table manners never not particularly interested in it, but now he devoured the food with some special eagerness. At the same time it seemed that he did not even try to enjoy its taste.

Throw in the mouth. Chew. Swallow. Drink water to food slipped deep into the body.

Repeat.

It seemed he was going to repeat those simple steps forever.

Food was neither tasty or tasteless.

Of course, it is a slap in the human soul, which it had prepared, but right now, the Torah does not eat to enjoy the taste of food, but to simply make up their hand.

– …

It was not long. To be more precise – 3 hours.

While the Torah sought in the mountains of wild vegetables, accidentally met a girl, and then managed to stumble upon a unicorn, to fail. In defending the girl, he distracted the unicorn, and then the girl killed the beast with his magic. During all these events, the Torah has shed a lot of blood, and even used a secret technique that is not used for two years, “Zheleznokrovie”.

And this “Zheleznokrovie” spent a considerable part of his body resources.

Perhaps worth wondering how he fainted immediately after the fight. Technique squeezed out of him the last forces, and all the time the Torah, we can say, hung in the balance.

As a result, … Toru was attacked by a hunger that once they got to the girl Delsoranta and went with her into the dining room as the scene unfolded it. Near the Torah already was a pile of five empty plates.

The time on the clock is already past noon, and the dining room was quite crowded.

At first, other people do not notice the Torah, but the sight of a young man in front of which is inexorably growing mountain of dishes, yet could not be ignored.

– Hey, man – Thor looked up from sixth empty plates. – Another portion of the same.

– ...Okay.

In a small box that connects the kitchen to the hall, he nodded his head seemed bewildered cook.

And after that …

– Too much eating, – whispered sullenly sitting in front of the Torah girl with silver hair and violet eyes.

Chaika Trabant.

She introduced herself with that name. Thor still had no idea what kind of family, but now he only cared that it has agreed to pay for the meal. Near the Torah, no matter how insulting it was to admit it, there was not a penny.

– Madness. Food Mountain. Incredible stomach.

– You'd better tell me, do you really have the money?

– … – Seagull nodded ruefully.

– Well, fine. After strenuous exercise there is always desirable.

– …

Of course, Chaika has promised to repay Tohru breakfast for what he brought her here. But, most of all, she has already begun to regret that did not specify the amount of food and the budget for which he hoped.

Torah is meanwhile took from standing next to him baskets of bread, broke his arms and began to eat. It was not that he just devoured everything that came under his eyes. In fact, the Torah was taught that there should be in the correct order to make up the most effective forces. First you need to understand what is happening in the brain the stomach and give the command to enhanced enzyme production – then the food will be absorbed much better, and the table will be much more effective.

Toru for a moment cracked down on a piece of bread …

– Brother.

… And froze.

Along with him without any reason at all froze dining visitors.

Although, there is no reason … they had a well-defined. However, while they themselves do not know. They shuddered instinctively, like a rabbit for the first time saw the tiger. Rabbit does not know why he is afraid of the tiger.

– You’re not coming home, and I started to worry.

– …

– What were you doing, brother?

– …

Torah gathered all his strength of will, and turned back to the entrance to the dining room.

There was a girl.

Tall, slender, with long black hair gathered at the nape of the neck.

A long section of her eyes was very beautiful … but at the same time, her squinting eyes were full of threats.

Akari. The younger sister of the Torah.

– Brother.

Akari walked quickly toward the dining-room table Torah and seagulls.

All visitors reflexively parted, freeing her way. Not that she asked them about it and ordered some gestures – it just was. Her beautiful eyebrows were not kept angrily, her face flushed with anger, but from her body like an aura emanated, makes everyone around hiding in fear in the corners.

– Akari, and, well, you see … – the Torah immediately began to make excuse …

But if you think about it, he ran out of the house, saying, “I’ll get us breakfast”, and the clock was already noon. He did not just stayed, he left his sister home, and he at that time was finishing seventh portion. About any convincing justification it was not walking.

He came to the conclusion that could only apologize.

– Sorry. I Forgot.

– …

Now it looks like Akari thought that it caused her brother to apologize to her in person. She narrowed her eyes and looked from the Torah, and then gazing in amazement at what is happening behind him Seagull.

And then…

– You smell blood, – she said quietly.

– And … – in the Torah face twitched.

Seagull has sewed his skin and clothes with the help of thread and needle that are found at home, and Torah thought that the wound that was left on his back teeth unicorn is invisible, but my sister, of course, instantly sensed something was wrong.

And then…

– Brother.

– Oh, no, in short …

– You got me there.

– …A?

– What were you thinking when he decided to disgrace a little girl?

– …

Tohru turned around and looked at the Seagull.

Seagull, as he'd expected, did not understand that Akari had just said, and continued to wonder.

– Akari.

– What's up, brother?

– I could on the subject to make a joke, but okay, I will not. You're wrong.

– True? – Akari bowed her head. Her face was still not a single emotion. – What is it, and how am I mistaken?Explain his silly sister, what's going on. Because I'm pretty sure that you can hear from the smell of blood, because you raped that girl and smeared with blood, when deprived of her virginity.

– Do you even consider the possibility that I might hurt ?! – Toru cried, banging his fist on the table.

But Akari just tilted her head to the other side and continued:

– This is strange.

– What's strange?

– Is my brother could injure themselves during a simple walk in the mountains?

– …

Tohru sighed.

Perhaps he was a bit of joy from the fact that she believed in his strength.

– And given the fact that you brought with them some sort of natural, unknown girl, the first thing I thought of that, you finally awakened sexual desire.

– Enough to dissolve the rumors about me!

"Especially when a full house is the people."

– But next to you is always have a sister with whom you are not related by blood. You can at any time be satisfied with me. Perhaps I'm not quite to your taste, but the younger guys a libido that …

– Shut up. For God's sake, shut up, – groaned Torah. – Look at it's best.

Thor pulled the hand-to-back and slightly pulled his clothes.

Of course, Akari saw the wound completely, but sewn with thread to see the edge owed.

– It's … – whispered Akari, eyes widening in surprise.

– Now I understand?

– Yes. All clear. It seems that I made a terrible mistake.

– Do not worry, the main thing that you have understood everything. Hopefully. That is, since you're here, let's also Preece …

– This girl – Akari interrupted Torah and look exactly at the Seagull. – I will kill her.

– Uh ?!

Akari started walking toward the Gulls and the Torah immediately wrung her hands. Let Akari was not her favorite hammer, this does not mean that they are safe. Akari could crush palm apple. Maybe her body and did not look very muscular, but it is from the village ACURE … with all its consequences.

– You still do not understand anything!

– No, I understand. She's spoiled you. Suppose I is known as a very gentle and peaceful man, but even I will not tolerate the fact that someone had defiled my dear brother.

– What is the place you are soft and peaceful ?! And why do you insult me, if I am so dear to you ?!

"How did you decided that I could cut out the back of this girl?"

– I was wrong .. – Akari asked, turning his head to the Torah, still holding her hand.

– Wrong.

– But how else could you get this wound? The desire to possess a little girl so blinded you that she was able to hit you in the back, is not it?

– What do you … I do accept? – Moaned Torah.

And then…

– It was feil – Toru said in a hushed voice, began the story of what had happened.

Read about the people that wandered around the city feil, it would have stood a huge noise. And it would have turned into an uncomfortable question of how the Torah survived with her appointment. They would have forced him to tell them his name, and all the efforts they have made to escape in the refugee area Delsoranta, would go down the drain.

– … – Akari's eyes narrowed sharply.

– I do not know how, but I got to fail. Fortunately, I came to help this girl, gull, and killed her. She's a magician.Won in the coffin rests her Gundo.

In ACURE village there was a special secret sign language.

With the help of the Torah could not only give visitors a dining room to hear the word “feil”, but also to show Akari, it’s not kidding.

– Rather, I owe her my life. Now about the food … She got lost in the mountains, and I offered to take her out if she will pay for our breakfast with you. Eventually, mountain vegetables distasteful to me already.

– I see … – Akari nodded.

At the same time Thor loosened its grip.

– I’m sorry, brother.

– Do not worry, the main thing that you have understood everything. Hopefully.

– I was sure that your house lying senseless your perverted sexual desires.

– I said, shut up – the Torah face twitched again. – And anyway … since you’re here and eat with us.

– Hmm? – Akari turned to Seagull. She sighed and nodded. – Good. Then I was four servings daily specials.

– Hey.

– I was so worried that activated the secret techniques and looking for you all over the city. I am also terribly hungry.

– This technique is necessary for … well, never mind.

In the end, Akari is also able to use the “Zheleznokrovie”.

– I’m sorry that it happened.

– Humility … – Seagull nodded.

***

– …

The man stood motionless near the corpse feil.

It is almost merged with the surrounding landscape – it was difficult to even determine whether his body is painted in brown and green colors, or is it just clothes. In any case, his clean-shaven head was definitely thoroughly smeared with paint. And when he closed his eyes notice it from a distance it became very difficult.

– Ooh …

The man's face contorted.

Due to camouflage it was difficult to say that it is an expression of his face, but in the next moment the tears gushed from my eyes, alluding to the fact that he was very grieved.

– Oo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo …

The man fell to his knees and fell down at the remains feil.

These remains like a giant blade to cut in half from head to breech. The blood of the black body is already absorbed in the foliage, because of what remains of the magical beast strikes fear into the hearts of ordinary people, a little skukozhilas.

– How did you hurt … how could you … suffered at … oo-oo-oo … poor fellow, poor fellow! .. – Continued struggling groan man bent over the corpse feil.

He grieved as if it was the body of his close relative.

And then…

– I do not understand … – suddenly the man said so cool tone, as if abruptly became a different person. – As the magician was able to kill a unicorn in the forest, and even after the attack? At the unicorn was a clear advantage. And he fought against the little girl with heavy luggage. He did not have any opportunity to play.

Recoiling from the corpse of the Unicorn, a man stood up and then bowed his head in bewilderment.

– All of this means that not only is it was ready for serious testing, but also acquired some "eyes" and "ears".Am I missing something in mind? ..

Looking around the neighborhood, the man suddenly bent down and got on all fours like a beast portraying.

He blinked, sniffed, wandered around the corpse feil …

– The area was expected someone else? .. – He finally whispered.

His gaze flew to the pinned leaves and broken branches.

Perhaps the eyes of an ordinary person would not see anything strange in them, but …

– Traces of the … with the aim of was a young man. Hmm. Hmm hmm. If he was able to cope with it, it seems a good fighter? Who is he? And most importantly – the girl was supposed to be one. She met here with someone?But … – the man bowed his head. – Hmm. It appears to act alone is still not worth it. If she has a helper, then it is too much for me. Perhaps it would be better to wait until the coming Gillette.

The man got up, and then turned in the opposite direction.

– In any case, one thing is clear – it is inside the city.

The man looked exactly there, where the Delsorant.

***

They parted with seagulls at the entrance to the dining room.

Although they fought with each other, shoulder to shoulder, but were still only occasional fellow travelers.

Girl lost and Torah led her to Delsorant. The award Seagull paid his food. They paid each other. As for feil, it is difficult to say who exactly it is attacked, and who gets saved, so about any duty here can not speak.

That's just …

– Brother .. – Akari's voice, and the Torah sharply turned to his sister.

– What?

– Nothing. Just you look back.

– Ah. Well…

Something about this girl, Chaika Trabant, gave him no peace.

But if the Torah was asked what it was, he could not answer.

– This girl is so much does not give you peace?

– A? No, just … I think it's a little strange.

– …

Akari picturesque sighed.

Since it almost never showed emotion, her breath seemed even more ostentatious. When they lived in ACURE, she pointed out many times that it is a serious shortcoming. Saboteur often passes to enter the ranks of the enemy to wreak havoc, so acting was for them to be as important a tool as a weapon.

– What else?

– I do not think my brother is a pervert so that the little girl does not give him no rest.

– You want to hook or by crook to blame me for this, huh?

– Do not get me wrong – Akari said, turning. – How would pervert you are, I will always love and respect you, brother.

– To know more, that there is “love and respect” for you … – he whispered the Torah, continuing to march forward.

He has not had time to realize that inside him something had changed. It happened a little later.

***

The street with a dull roar was driving the car.

In recent years, ordinary people have started to get used to the sight of these mechanisms, the engine that runs on magical energy. But this machine was significantly more than the usual, and is in itself a rare sight. In these drove the cream of society – nobility and sovereigns. Or, at least, rich merchants. In a sense, the car was not only a convenient means of transportation than the coach or wagon, but also more economical, although it prohibitively expensive. The car can afford very few people.

And so she attracted attention.

In addition, its noble white color stood out against the background of the village street.

People in horse-drawn carts and carriages, which drove past the car, with bulging eyes watched her go.

– It seems that during the day to move all the same it is not necessary – with a sigh, he said the young man sitting inside it.

Inside the machine “April” model was very much in place. Unlikely to passers-by, seeing off the machine looks could imagine how it is spacious inside. It was a real home on wheels. In addition to the booths, in which sat the driver, it had 4 small rooms, 2 warehouses and a central cabin, in which the machine crew could meet and something to discuss with each other.

The boy was sitting exactly in this cabin.

He was not alone – around the round table sat a few more people.

They did not look at each other or persons, nor the color of eyes, hair or skin or clothing – the feeling of unity was absent. It might seem that this is some kind of a squad of mercenaries, but the aforementioned young man looked very elegant and refined, and it can be easily mistaken for a representative of the nobility.

– Judging by the message Send to explore Mateus, this is the girl we’re looking for. If you miss it here, it is not known when it will fall to us next time, – he said with a shrug, the man sitting in front of boys.

It was a broad mature man. He was clearly older than the youth, but behaved in his presence, modestly.Apparently, the lower in rank.

– And yet, we are too isolated.

– Well, another would be – a grin, the man said.

The boy went straight to the point.

The white car was on the street, the more attention is attracted.

– But this is a covert operation …

– Well, we are attracting to themselves as much attention as the rich man to travel around the village street by car. They do not have any idea what we're doing here.

– It is of course true, but …

– And in general – a man turned toward the driver's cab. – Zita, as we have yet to Delsoranta?

– Something about half an hour – came in response to the voice of a young girl.

– Yeah … the question is, what do we do then.

– You have already contacted c Count Abarth? – Asked the young man.

In response, again I heard the voice of a girl named Zita:

– To a certain degree. We did not tell him why we go.

– That's right – the boy nodded. – Most likely, in any case of conventional methods is insufficient …

Whispering these words, the young man's face darkened.

***

He had not seen them for a very long time … but they have not changed since the last time.

He found them in one of the wooden boxes, piled heap in the corner of an abandoned house. They were right next to a tool to care for them, as if waiting for the hour when he again will take them into their own hands.

– …

Thor frowned and pulled them out of the box.

Two of the stylet in a sheath attached to a leather belt.

They were too long to call their daggers, and too short for swords. Someone would say that it is neither fish nor fowl, and someone would have decided that they have incorporated the best features of both daggers and swords.

But…

– …

Toru briefly put a belt with two stylets in the nearest drawer cover, and then took off his thin gloves. If next to him was someone other than Akari, he did not remove them even during a hike in the bath. They needed him in order that he could live like a normal person.

Thor looked at his hands.

Each complex was carved emblem.

Exactly the same as on the handle stilettos.

Toru belt wrapped around his body and brought his hands to stilettos.

Movement seemed to him so natural, as if it was not this year's idleness.

Carefully holding the handle, he slightly pulled behind them.

– Wow…

He did not feel any discomfort drops.

Rather, he felt as rough and uncouth moved when waved in the morning with an ax. And he used it for a year from the day he came into Delsorant.

– Although it is not so surprising – whispered the Torah.

He could not clearly explain why all of a sudden decided to get these two stylet. Yes, his ax broke down … but he could not replace them. If he was going to live like a normal person, these gizmos are quite useless for him.

Unlike him, Akari continued regularly swinging his favorite instrument, but anyone seeing stilettos Torah would have realized that they are made not for decorative or domestic purposes. Since then, they settled in Delsorante, the Torah never had to use them.

However, work in this city was not to hammer Akari, so she often walked the streets without it.

– Well, nothing can be done …

So it is not pulling stilettos out of the sheath, the Torah took off his belt.

He was about to lay down their once favorite weapon back in the drawer …

– …

But I stopped.

He looked at the stilettos for some time, and then slung over the shoulder belt and then pulled out of the drawer leather bag with tools. Inside were polishing powder, butter, hammer handles analysis and other tools for the care of arms.

Thor went into the next room, where blades and tools laid out on an old dining table, apparently forgotten past tenants here.

And here…

– Brother? – Suddenly I heard the voice of Akari, which just passed the opening, which was once the door. – What are you…

– A? And, well … – vaguely replied Torah and sighed. – Here's decided …

– …

Akari walked into the room, stood on the side of the Torah, and looked at his stilettos.

– Chinish?

– Well yes.

Not that he intended to or could use them again.

But…

– I have nothing else to do.

– …

Oddly enough, the words "then why do not you go to work?" In response followed.

Akari just nodded, and then left the room again.

– Maybe … I just do not want to do anything else.

But his desire could no longer be fulfilled.

Saboteurs lived and benefited only on the battlefield.

When advancing the world, their skills become useless, even when working with a saw or a kitchen knife … They, like the muffled blades, is superfluous. Neither fish nor fowl.

But…

– …

Perhaps it was only a small surprise.

The senseless event that can not even be called a battle.

In the mountains, he met with Fail … and with the help of accidentally passing by the magician was able to defeat her. That's all. Most likely, this situation will never happen again, and even if something similar happens again, it is unlikely he will experience the same feeling.

But…

– I…

"I do not just use" Zheleznokrovie ".

Once on the verge of death, I gave up all other thoughts, did everything I was capable of, and thanks to these actions achieved results.

I…"

– Anyway.

What exactly was "okay", the Torah did not know himself. He began to repair his stiletto.

***

– Brother.

The next morning.

Like yesterday, the first thing he saw the Torah, was the face of his sister, is so close that he felt the breath of it.

By the way, from his pillow again stuck her hammer.

– Good morning.

– Listen … – Torah handed back. – What are you all doing?

– Do not understand? – Akari bowed her head in amazement. Hammer of Thor pillow she never learned. – Same as yesterday. I wake you, brother.

– So I ask you – why do you repeat yesterday's action?

– Because repeated yesterday's situation.

– … – The Torah not found the answer.

Indeed, although yesterday they managed to have breakfast (or rather, dinner) with the seagulls, but nothing more happened. Thor did not find work, so today they, like yesterday,

there was no money. Rather, Akari last worked in a shop near their home, but all of her earnings went to yesterday's dinner.

In the end, yesterday they both used the "Zheleznokrovie".

Because of this, they are for lunch, and for dinner ate several times more food than is necessary to the common man.

Because of this, they spent one day on food as much money as they usually have enough for 3 days.

Indeed, this morning yesterday repetition.

– That's just my wound has not yet healed.

– But the simple operation you can perform?

– I've already said, I was not going to work – angrily handed the Torah. – You would also save time and found a good man and would marry him. At least a pretty smile you can learn? And even if you have no experience, you have been taught how to behave in bed.

– But do not you think that if a man for whom I will go, will not work, then nothing will change?

– It is of course true, but …

Although the Torah and not proud of it, but he knew that such people like him in this world is very small. It was a time of chaos after the war, and all desperately clung to life. People like the Torah, that loud stated that "the work is for losers" were either mad or stupid.

Because these words meant, "I think of it, die, but so what?"

– Whatever it was – suddenly said Akari, – I'm already on the edge.

– In terms of?

– My patience is running out, – she said.

And in the next moment …

– …?!

Torah immediately jumped out of bed.

He did it because Akari tried to break through his open palm.

And it was not half-jokingly attack. If the Torah did not take it seriously and not evaded, her hand would have protruded from his back.

– Akari ?!

Jumping, Toru first leg pushed away from the wall, then the ceiling, then landed on the floor. Old abandoned house creaked from these movements to protest against such treatment.

– I said, – indifferently said Akari, straightening. – If you do not start to work, I'll turn you in effigy, brother.

– …Are you serious? – Handed the Torah.

Akari pulled a hammer from a bag … but this time she did not swing it, and tossed it in silence. She did not try to intimidate him senseless movements. She threw the hammer to strike the fatal blow.

"Well … I'm not so surprised," – some self-deprecatingly thought the Torah.

It looks like she really was telling the truth, and her patience was overfilled. In fact, if a single member of its "family" did nothing that was lying at home every day without any plans and thoughts about the future, her desire to break all ties with the past, to destroy it, and then find a new life You can understand.

With the end of the war it was not long.

The price of human life was still low. Cities do not have time to conduct a census of the inhabitants, and only about refugees often were not aware of any matter who they are or where they all live. Precisely because of this Torah and Akari could so easily build yourself unremarkable residents and get lost in the crowd.

And whatever it was …

– …

Hammer Akari flew into it with little or no warning.

Thor barely managed to dodge it. Strike, the last by a head, easily broke through the wall of an abandoned building, which seemed to be very ready to collapse at any moment.

Rolling on the floor, he grabbed the belt Torah stilettos lying next to the bed, then got up again, dodging the next blow. When he was reunited with Akari face to face, she has managed to return to its initial stand.

There are schools of ownership blades, in which every stroke must be carried out of the sheath. Use a hammer to fight something like them.

When a fighter ends his hammer attack, it instantly becomes harmless. Because there is no hammer blades, they are not a threat, when it is not moving. Therefore, in order to strike one after another, you must either constantly swinging a hammer, using the inertia, or to

rely on a style of short fast strokes of the same stand, as did Akari.

"I never liked to fight against her hammer …" – wondered Torah, gently stepping back. As soon as he was more or less safe distance, then immediately put on a belt with stilettos.

And then I went out through the hole in the wall of the building.

Akari came after him.

From neighboring buildings such as abandoned as their house, peering faces of the other refugees, who were attracted by the sounds of battle … but it seems that was not among them madmen, intending to intervene in what is happening. Given how dangerously Akari looked hardly even any average person would dare to interrupt her.

– If you want to scare me, it is better to stop it right now – the Torah said, determined to still be prevented. – Otherwise, you will not be able to write off in earnest.

– Brother, – said Akari. – I've never said anything like a joke.

– …Are you serious?

– Of course.

– … – Thor in the head flashed a few witty comments, but he decided to leave them to themselves. – As you wish.

Having decided, Thor grabbed the handle stilettos.

Emblems on his hands touched the emblems on the handle … and then he flexed his fingers, which kept them at the same time otschelkivaya fastener about Guard thumbs. And quickly pulled the stiletto from its sheath.

– Heh …

He felt a sense of change, who gave him his hand.

Although blades favorite Torah and were anonymous, it is not just daggers. It was komboklinki – a favorite weapon of his colleagues felt on the battlefield, like a fish in water. In their hilts and blades hiding a special mechanism that activated the "key" – the same emblem on the arm holder.

And when that happened … komboklinki, as should their name, became part of the Torah.

When it is attacked, it is not felt that cuts the enemy's tool in his hand – the feeling coming from the blade, were so natural, as if he tried to grab the enemy with his own hand. He could feel the temperature of the blade surface and the wind blew over it as well as feel their own skin. It seemed to him that the blade was a continuation of his hands. He did not have the feeling that he "uses" stilettos.

And then...

– “I am the steel” – at the same time began to whisper in the Torah and Akari. – “Steel no fear,” “doubt become unknown”, “standing against the enemy, I will not hesitate,” “I have a gun, carrying your death ...”

Secret technique: “Zheleznokrovie”.

They uttered keywords and saboteurs body turned into a living weapon.

For a sense of unity with komboklinkom added a new ... from this very moment the Torah and he was only there to swing the weapon. He became komboklinkom merged with those in his hand.

Blade unknown question.

Blade has no fear.

As read as keywords. He began to exist only in order to not hesitate to fight against their enemies.

The next moment the Torah with Akari simultaneously pushed off from the ground.

But they did not do it to jump towards each other. They are only evaluated agility of their goals. Careless jump could lead to the fact that on landing the enemy would attack from the ground. Even “Zheleznokrovie” made it impossible to dodge attacks while in the air. At best, they were able to change the rack, waving his arms, but to protect the center of mass of the attack impossible.

There was a loud thud on the ground.

Then groaning clang of metal hitting the metal.

He came even after both first commandos crouched low, almost crouched, then quickly ran up to each other, and for a moment before the collision put all forces strained to the limit of bodies in one powerful blow.

– Hi ... – Tohru gasped.

He barely managed to repulse the attack.

He stopped flying at him from the left side hammer crossed stilettos. Of course, if he tried to stop them hammer the tip, they would immediately fracture. Therefore, the Torah was aiming at the handle of the hammer.Since the strength of the attack depends on the speed, the tip of the hammer – the strongest part of it, and the base – the weakest.

But ... and this meant that he had to come to his opponent closely.

The average person in this situation, then tried to jump. However, he would only exposed

himself under attack Akari hammer. She was able to swing them back and strike the next blow. The only right thing to do was to continue to be close to her.

Thor was under the influence of “Zheleznokroviya” and did not feel any fear or doubt.

Honed to the needs of the Battle of the body instinctively suppressed fear.

But the same applies to Akari.

She immediately pulled the hammer back.

Since he was still engaged with stilettos utyanulo them with a hammer, and the Torah to momentarily knocked out of balance. Akari is using impulse that gave her pulling the hammer began to rotate his own body and stretched his leg like a second hammer, attacking left without the protection of the Torah on the right.

Shoes worn by the Torah and Akari, a few places were bound in iron. It is intended mainly for protection, but if you invest in a blow strong enough, it could be a formidable weapon. Akari rotated with the spring rate. Direct hit her pink would surely break the skull of the Torah, the more so that it was aiming to the temple – the most vulnerable part of the skull.

But the Torah has not yet departed. He, on the contrary, rushed forward to push Akari and bring down its attack.

Clashes with her shoe temple has been avoided, but instead Akari inflicted a heavy blow on the cheek with his knee, and after that the Torah fell to the ground, pulling her along.

– Fx …

Instantly recoiling from Akari, Toru rolled on the ground and jumped to his feet to stop.

He saw Akari stood in exactly the same way.

“And she’s strong …” – thought indifferently Torah.

While studying at ACURE them several times had to fight with each other … but they have never agreed on a serious battle.

But…

“Our skills are equal. Hence, all resolve differences in endurance and strength … ”

Toru felt as the year of missed opportunities training dulled his body. But Akari, the feelings became during this time is much stronger. And besides …

“It seems that my wound opened” – the Torah thought, as if he was watching the battle from the sidelines.

Although Akari again sewed the wound on his back, she had not yet had time to heal completely. In ordinary life, to strain muscles especially on the back do not have to, but such leaps and jumps demanded a lot from his body.

The protracted battle Thor was unable to defeat cancer.

And that means …

“It is better to finish everything quickly,” – he decided, exposing ourselves stilettos.

If the Torah in this situation and there was some advantage over Akari, it was his weapon. Hammer, Akari weapons, much more, but could not boast a variety of attacks. In addition, any serious attack demanded scope, which took time.

And with stilettos, weapons Torah could be applied as a chopping and thrusting, and most importantly, they are much easier and more convenient hammer. In addition, there are two,

which doubles the number of available techniques.

Perhaps, this was his only chance of winning.

– .. – Breathed Torah, starting from the ground.

The earth groaned under his shoe, and the Torah slid forward, closer to Akari. Left Stiletto he put in front of him like a shield, and the right to put a side.

It flew hammer Akari.

Her attack was directed upwards at an angle.

He walked up to the right and to protect the blade in his left hand was impossible. If the protection of the rights stiletto – nothing will attack. If you try to change the trajectory, it will turn into a horizontal sweep kick and still touches him.

Therefore…

– ..

Toru dramatically crossed swords, defending exactly the same as from the last attack, but this time he did it a little slower. Hammer collided with stilettos before they completely crossed. Imperfect Parry was unable to extinguish the force of the hammer, and the blades with a loud ringing flew out of his hands.

– …

For a moment, Akari looked away from him and looked at the stilettos.

But it continued to move the hammer to Thor, almost without changing its trajectory. He was strong enough to destroy a couple of vital organs such as the liver. Of course, death has come to take a few days, but would have been inevitable.

But…

Very exhaling, Thor grabbed the hammer.

– !!! – Akari's eyes widened in surprise.

During their training, and the Torah, and Akari mastered the technique of clamping blades – capture their hands on both sides to stop the enemy's attack. But it was only used against all kinds of swords and daggers, and not against the Hammers. Promoted Hammer had too much momentum to stop it with his bare hands.Unsuccessful attempt to grab the hammer would lead to a failure and getting hit, or damage to the joints of the hands, and then defend against subsequent attacks became nothing.

But…

– …

Despite all this, Thor grabbed the hammer. However, at the same time, he jumped in the same direction, where he moved. Grab it was easy – it was a great tip, and besides, he has lost much of its momentum, hitting the stilettos.

Thor did not try to stop the hammer – he was moving in the same direction, bringing the hammer relative velocity to zero. Thor's body was heavy enough to serve as a load that can stop the hammer.

And that means …

– Fx …

Briefly exhaling, let Akari hammer.

Try to use it as a weapon has become meaningless.

But … she was late.

Climbing up into the air from the hammer pulse, the Torah around and hooked foot long hair, Akari.

– X-ha! – Landing, he yanked her by the hair, forcing to fall to the ground.

Following this, the Torah abruptly grabbed the hammer and held it to her temple.

– So what?

Thor looked at his sister lying on the ground.

Hammer was for Akari same favorite weapon, how to Torah stilettos, and at full capacity it could use it only.But even in the hands of the Torah, he remained as hard and sharp. Torah could, if desired, can easily kill her blow on the temple.

But…

– I'll ask again. Are you serious?

– … Of course, I'm serious – Akari said without a trace of embarrassment.

And here…

– Well, well, done! – A voice was heard, and with it pops.

Torah departed from Akari, dropped the hammer on the ground, and then turned toward the sound.

There stood …

– …?!

Two people familiar.

And one of them was …

– You .. – whispered to the Torah, and then immediately said keywords, repealing “Zheleznokrovie” and deducing it from the state of permanent readiness for combat.

The man somewhere in his forties.

He was a short, thin, and gave the impression of a nerve. He was from the city guilds, and Thor saw him at that time, when Akari almost force him to sign up for it. His name was Barton, and the name of the Torah did not remember.

– Finished, finished. Oh, you scared me. If I had hesitated and had not intervened, it would be too …

– What do you want? – Toru asked, frowning.

– Well, how to say, the Torah. I thought it was time to think seriously about how to prevent you from our guild, – Barton said. – In the end, the dead soul, which exists only on paper, harm our reputation.

Although the Torah and registered in the guild, he has never taken any kind of work and refused all suggestions that come to him. Therefore, the guild decided that he – just useless baggage.

And these thoughts are quite right.

In the Torah there was no right to complain about their decision, nor the desire to do so.

But…

– Therefore I decided that will offer you another job, and if you refuse – are excluded. However, inside the guild had many questions on the subject of whether or not I’m going to offer you for the job.

– ..

– Well, judging by the words of the customer, it is quite difficult, or rather demanding. And then I thought, is not it better to be first to find out whether you will fit for her.

– But you have a guild lot of other people, no? – I asked the Torah, still frowning. – If you think that it is beyond my powers, just give it to someone else.

– No. I mean, what is it – the customer have it on you, as the main candidate.

And with that, Burton pointed to the figure beside him.

It was a girl with silver hair.

Gull.

– On-off, and to test your skills, and I asked for help from your sister.

– …

Thor turned and stared into the eyes Akari, which has already managed to get up.

But she did not even flinch in response to the view of the Torah, and all looked as coolly.

– So you did not mean it?

– Of course, I'm always serious – Akari clenched her fists and nodded. – My feeling tells me to make you a stuffed animal, if you refuse, and this time, were the most sincere, brother!

– Things do not speak out loud! – I exclaimed the Torah and then sighed. – Damn it. Is it all still have to work?

He did not think that he would find a new path in life, he can not become a saboteur, and someone else.

He thought so, even at this very moment.

He believed that nothing else can not do.

But…

"She's going to hire me?" – Suddenly he thought, and turned to the Seagull.

Seagull flourish nodded, pointed to the Torah and Akari fingers and said with satisfaction:

– Hiring. Hiring. Skillful.

– And Akari too? But … what do you want from us?

Neither Barton, neither knew the other members of the guild that they are saboteurs – people that any person close to the government, openly pursued and tried to exterminate. But…

Seagull knew Torah saboteur.

She knew that he was a child of war, that becomes useless in peacetime. Yes, he fought a good idea, but there were other people who feel confident in battle. Saboteurs specialized in meanness and deceit, but those skills came in handy often. For example, the work of a bodyguard or bouncer demanded more formidable appearance and strong muscles. And the role of the personal guard of the rich man more appropriate to someone who is trained in good manners and the ability to fight in the honest battle.

Saboteurs have not been principles. Their task – “to win as often as possible” by any means. Even if the authorities had not decided to destroy them, unprincipled attitude to work would have provided them with general hatred.

– Discuss – Chaika said, nodding again.

– I can see the conversation ensued. Well, I’ll go, – he said with satisfaction Barton and left, leaving the Torah, Akari and Seagull alone.

It’s hard to say, it was good or bad, but his duties included only the choice of personnel for work. But what happened after that, he was not interested. Most likely, Seagull has managed to pay him.

– …Why me?

– Um … – Seagull tilted her head thoughtfully, and then said, – The Fate?

– Destiny, say …

Their conversation was rather lengthy.

But…

“Is she last felt something?”

Then, when their life hung on the hair.

When it was over, he felt satisfaction, and more …

– Brother, – I heard the voice of his sister, who obviously wanted to hurry him.

Face the Torah was so sour, as if he had eaten a bug.

– I know, I have to agree. However, I understand that you chose us to Akari not for that we scrubbed floors or dug gardens, right?

– Of course, – Seagull nodded, and then said in a clear voice – Want. Saboteurs.

***

Residence of the graph Abarth.

This mansion is in the heart of the walled city Delsoranta.

Abarth – hereditary earls and soldiers, and many of their vassals, too, took part in the wars. Robert Abarth, the head of the family, made a huge contribution to the success of the great battle that ended the war – namely, that the success of the operation that destroyed the empire of gas to the base. That is why it is often called a “hero.”

In those days he was engaged in that are invited to work magic engineers and revived Delsorant. Often it was said that all his actions are intended to strengthen the power of Abarth family. The reason for these conversations is that once this family knew only as “rural elite”, but now the name is often mentioned in all corners of the empire Coover.

And therefore…

– Welcome, very happy to see you.

When the “April” appeared in Delsorante and requested an audience at the residence of Count Abarth, Abarth Robert personally went to meet her with a friendly smile.

Machine “April” was the personal transport Alberic Gillette, knight Veymark kingdom. Albert himself, one might say, was the kingdom Veymark, and his visit Delsoranta justified as “military training.” Anyway, that’s what he told Abarth.

In other words, his visit to the residence of the Count Abarth could help informally to make friends with the nobility of the neighboring state. Such links were very useful in the battle for power, even within the country.

– I’m Robert Abarth – said the blond hero and worshiped.

From his appearance exuded nobility – graceful features an amazing contrast to the broad-muscled body.Alberic also looked noble person, but compared to Robert seemed a little easier – on its type breathed soldiers ascetic.

Robert, in turn, produced a nifty impression that sneaking suspicion in mind – whether this is the “hero”. His clothes were richly embroidered with gold thread and decorated with family crest Abarth. From the luxury of his dress it seemed to be that it is not just a noble man, and someone close to the king.

– I Alberic Gillette, – said Alberic and also bowed.

Behind him stood Zita and Vivi, to perform the role of subordinates. Both of them were teenage girls, and because their company did not seem threatening. Against the background of the rest of the crew of “April” the girl looked quite harmless. And Alberic, collecting his team, chose them because of this. However, from such a choice it is often mistaken for a womanizer who always appears in public, accompanied by girls.

Alberic and his men went to the reception, which is in the depths of the mansion.

As they walked down the long corridor, richly furnished with works of art, Alberic himself tried to give the head of the house Abarth performance.

“I think he’s hungry for a little attention? ..”

Among the paintings were those that represented the most Abarth, as well as some statues, clearly vayavshiesya with him. All of them were on a par with paintings and statues of

heroes of the past. It was as if he had thus put himself on a par with them.

“But still. Hereditary warrior? “Hero”? Is that it? ”

Alberic, as a knight, could one look at the human gait and appearance from behind to estimate what he is capable of. And Robert … looked like a military craft is almost alien to him. As if he did not study it.

But there was no doubt – that Robert is one of those people after the Great War came to be called “heroes.”

If this were not so, Alberic and his subordinates would not have come to this house.

“Maybe the last five years dulled his skills?”

Maybe he had become a customary ruler who called himself a “hero”? Perhaps he felt that to temper his body and strive to military accomplishments no longer need?

– I beg.

Robert invited them into a richly furnished reception, offered a sofa and sat down with it himself.

Two noble man exchanged formal greetings.

And then…

– So. What brings you to the residence of Count Abarth?

– …

For a moment, Alberic thought about how to present what he had to say.

Most often, the noble and powerful people with whom he spoke, ceased to be friendly after these words.

But still…

– Count Abarth. I understand that my part is very rude to offer during our first meeting … but I want some of what you ask for.

– ABOUT? – Robert blinked.

– We would like to take you to the time of the “thing” that got you informally during the storming of the capital of the Empire Gas.

– …What? – Robert asked, frowning.

This reaction was natural. Robert Relationship instantly replaced with a hospitable on the

cautious.

– Get that thing? – He asked, as if in disbelief.

In fact, Alberic was not unequivocal assurance that Robert is what they are looking for. But his answer left no doubt.

– Yes. We can not reveal to you all the details, but we ask it in the framework of a special commission, which we now carry on the orders of the Agency to accelerate the post-war reconstruction “Kleeman”, created with the participation of several countries, which include our Veymark Kingdom.

– …

Robert narrowed eyes looked first at Alberic, and then Zita and Vivi, who stood behind the couch at a short distance.

– Empire Coover also took part in the creation of the Agency “Kleeman”. You may consider our request asking Kuvera Emperor.

– Even if all this is true, – said Robert. – Why do you want this thing?

– We can not tell, – said Alberic. – We can not answer such questions, because we ran errands secret.

– …

Robert stared intensely in Alberic and his assistants.

And then…

– Hey, – he said to the maids, standing in the corner of the room, leaving the couch. – Our guests are leaving.Be so kind as to escort them to the door.

– …

Sighing, Alberic rose.

He assumed that all is exactly what happened. From the point of view of common sense, they are asked to look really weird. You could say they first met face-to-face with the man, asked him to give them his most precious treasure.

– Lord Abarth – Alberic said, reaching out of the reception and turning. – I understand your reluctance to give us this thing. But we are talking about peace just Ferbista.

– …

Robert did not answer.

He just continued to drill Alberic pale blue eyes.

Sighing, Alberic came out of the waiting room.

***

– What did you say?

With the “test of aptitude” Torah and Akari took about half an hour.

They sat inside the abandoned building, which served as their home, and Seagull just finished explaining to them, for which they were hired.

AND…

– Are you out of your mind?

– In his – Seagull nodded confidently.

Perhaps it was senseless self-confidence, because …

– It’s crazy, from whatever angle you look.

– Do not insanity – Seagull shaking her head. Long silver hair swung. – Necessary. At any cost. Therefore, I beg you.

– …

Torah and Akari looked at each other.

It seems that the Akari and did not know of what exactly it asks for them. Perhaps Barton, who had heard about the Order in general, immediately decided he did not want to involve in this guild, and it is therefore left without becoming listen to this discussion.

After all…

– Attack on the house of the ruler – is clearly said Gull. – And steal.

– What to steal?

– Something important … – Chaika said after a short pause.

Chapter 3

Hanging in the middle of the night sky month dimly lit city streets.

Already occurred late at night, the streets were deserted, and the lights went out in almost all homes. Lights burned only in the center of the city, the governor of the city and the estate near him – where lived the rich people who could afford not to worry about the coverage of costs, whether it be fuel for the fire, or the magic of light.

– Hmm …

a number of tall, strong trees grew in the center of the city, though the area separating the rich from the rest.Formally, they played the role of street landscaping, but in fact it was a "wall" between the quarters of the rich and ordinary citizens. Of course, nobody forbade people to go from one quarter to another, but the fact of the existence of such clear boundaries enough that people did not dare to cross it. Intentionally or without cause this border crossing, or aliens, or people are so stupid that do not understand the unspoken rules of the city.

Or…

– What is the bright and gaudy building, – whispered with a sullen face of a young man … or rather, a young man, who was standing on one of the trees.

It was so high that a fall could seriously injure themselves, but not only did he not clung to the trunk, and stood with his hands folded on a pretty thin thread, did not mind feeding.

He had an incredible sense of balance.

He was wearing clothes mostly blacks. She was not completely black, since it … camouflage suit camouflage.A man dressed entirely in black, would stand out against the background of moonlight flooded streets and stars as a hole out of the blue.

It was the Torah ACURE.

He stood above the buildings in order to see the middle of the central area, where the house of the ruler of the city, Robert Abarth.

This mansion was built as a fortress. In general, the long war has led to the fact that all the noble families built their estates so that they could serve their fortresses. After the war, he gained popularity cosmetic reworking of these houses in the more elegant. Perhaps this is why the mansion at first glance does not look menacing … but the scenery could not hide the fact that it was built it as a fortress. He was still strong on the outside and confusing inside, in other words – a well-guarded. The walls still have loopholes for arrows and magic, and in every corner of the house could detect the observation tower. Once they certainly sentries standing at the post at 4-6 hours, but if they were there now – it is not visible.

– Um …

Torah drew a rough plan of the building in mind.

saboteurs Education certainly included technology penetration into the enemy fortress. Of course, this does not mean that they could alone to capture the castle, but to get into it until the main forces, how to play a prank, and as much as possible to simplify the subsequent assault – no problem. Saboteurs are experts in these matters.

Therefore, in the Torah in his time long and hard hammered technique with which he could imagine how to construct a fortress from the inside on its exterior and landscape.

The meaning of these techniques was to recreate the idea of architects to draw plans of the building, in the reverse order.

– So … so then … and then, perhaps, so that – in the head sketched a rough outline of the fortress, the Torah scratched his cheek. – Eh. I do not think that you have to make enemies in the face of the mayor.

– Are you afraid of, brother? – I heard a voice from below.

– You think I'm afraid? – Casually Toru, staring at the house.

On the branches of the tree, deftly and quickly, like a pilot monkey climbed, of course, Akari ACURE. She stood on the other side of the barrel from the Torah, forcing him to turn around.

– No. It's impossible. My beloved brother would not be afraid of anyone. Sorry. I have not thought about in their own words.

– Clear …

– I'm sure that even if my brother's a weapon only his hands, and it was left to a single strings, protect the body, it would be in a completely nude fearlessly attacked the millionth army ..!

– No, do so only fools. For several reasons – he said dejectedly Torah clearly does not understand why he should be someone there to fight naked.

Although they are practically brother and sister, he is in his life and has not learned to fully understand the train of thought of this girl.

In turn, Akari indignantly (but again, not showing expression is not a single emotion) said to him:

– Fool. Let you and my brother, but I will not let you humiliate the dignity of my beloved brother.

– Sorry. It turns out that you are a fool though.

– Nothing important is that you understand.

– And you? – Here the Torah could not stand it, sighed, and decided to change the theme of this idiotic conversation. – Well. Akari, as there is the west side?

– Not very different from this. Not that this impregnable castle. In the end, the war was over, and it's just a house, but inside certainly is full of guards. He's one of those who won the war, and certainly his purse was breaking from reparations. On the mercenaries he should miss.

– Are you serious? Are you sure that the ruler of the city – one of those who won the war?

– Brother. Next time, I advise you to listen carefully to the rumors.

– Well, I'm sorry that I kept the house lay – Toru replied with a sour expression on his face.

Since then, they settled in Delsorante, Thor tried to leave the house as little as possible. Of course, he knew far less in comparison with Akari, who tried to stay away from home as much as possible and are constantly talking with our neighbors (who live in the same quarter of the neighbors were like refugees, rather, mutual society).

– It's just I know a lot of things beyond his years.

– Is it possible to be proud .. It just means that you talked a lot?.

– No. Let's say I have a vast knowledge of the love affairs, not based on experience.

– What is it like?

– I learned everything from his imagination. I am sure that I can easily turn a your head, brother.

– I repeat – there is nothing to be proud of here – sadly said Toru, stroking at how proudly looked like his sister.

But Akari did not pay attention to it, and abruptly changed the subject:

– The governor of the city, Robert Abarth, participated in the same attack on the capital of the Empire … he was in the squad, which broke away from the van and got inside the castle. Many here call him "hero."

– He is the ruler and at the same time, a good fighter? – Thoughtfully whispered the Torah.

Etiquette demanded that the nobles ability to wear the sword for ceremonial purposes, but most never learned to fight it against anyone. It comes to mind except knights, some of whom managed to build a successful career in the battles themselves and become knights … but their successors have not eager to appear on the front.

It is true and it was the opposite – if a noble man knew what he was in the vanguard in the important battles, which meant that he was well versed in martial arts and military affairs. However, one can not exclude that in the battles he fought for strong servants, and

he was little he could.

– So … it's true.

Thor stepped forward.

He made a movement with quite indifferently, but thereby stepped into the void with a branch and began to fall immediately. But he did not start any twitch, no panic. In the air, several times he stretched out his arms to grasp branches passing and slow down the fall. Eventually, he landed near the roots almost silently.

The next moment he landed about Akari.

– Then, Seagull really need our help.

– Maybe so, but … – Akari turned to him when they have already started to come back. – Are you sure we can trust this girl?

– The girl? You're not much older than her.

– I have breasts bigger.

– What's your criteria for such? – Thor's eyes narrowed. – She's our client. Naturally, I fully trust her.

– No, I'm not talking about it. I'm talking about her skills as a magician.

– Oh … by the way, yes, you have not yet seen – said Toru, nodding.

Judging by the fact that he saw the Torah, seagull pretty skillful magician. Of course, the Torah did not study magic and did not know many details … but she could not get lost during strenuous battle with the Unicorn and successfully cast a spell. And it was enough that the Torah could appreciate it.

The magician, who knows a lot of spells, but due to nerves regularly mistaken in them.

The magician, who knows only one technique, but able to apply it in any situation.

If the Torah was offered to make a choice with whom to go into battle, it definitely would have chosen the latter.

– It is very, very bad.

– True?

– Yes. How to describe it …

"She has such a concentration that, having decided not distracted by anything."

What do you call it? .. Unshakable Will?

From the perspective of the Torah, which limply lived day by day, the clarity of mind Gulls seemed dazzlingly bright.

– In short, it is much more impressive than it seems.

– Clearly, – Akari nodded, obviously agreeing with him. – So you're one of those who appreciate the shape, not size, brother?

– What are you?

– On the chest.

– Are you really this stupid? – I asked the Torah once again looking closely to it.

– Hmm? Do not you mean that it is much more impressive when naked?

– I was talking about her magical talents! This is because you have given a hint about it!

– Brother, I beg you, do not be mad. It's just a joke.

– With you it is difficult to understand when you're joking!

"Especially because you have no emotion."

We can say, this kind of talk to them quite ordinary case. Continuing to talk, they returned home, where they waited for Seagull.

***

At home, they saw a pogrom.

In another way, this heart-rending scene was not called.

– …

Toru froze when he barely entered the room.

Nearby stood with Akari traditionally indifferent face.

Their eyes appeared …

– Ooh …

… Lying on the floor Seagull.

She sat and stood, namely, lying.

And she was from head to feet smeared with something sticky. And around it littered with the remains of various dishes and furniture. What is happening could be easily mistaken for the effects of the explosive or bursting of magic. However, since the Torah with Akari lived in an abandoned house, their furniture from the beginning was like “the remains”.

– Failure. Failure – Chaika said, getting up.

Then she turned to the still standing at the entrance of the Torah and Akari and smiled broadly.

– Good evening. No, with the return.

– What other “return”? What have you done ?! – Immediately said Toru.

Since the Seagull was younger than him, he allowed himself to Torah refer to it as “thou” even now, when she officially hired them. But it is not important.

– Dinner. Cook. Failure.

– It’s obvious – some exasperation said Toru.

Catch yourself on Akari looks at this very moment was especially painful. After he called it “a much more impressive than it sounds,” a scene greatly harmed his reputation.

– A. So, when you said you stupid … you mean it? .. – Torah remembered the words spoken to her during their first meeting.

In the end, it was the same gull that tried to escape from the Torah, made a circle and returned to the same place. It seems that when she used magic, it becomes very concentrated, but was very sloppy in everyday life.

– Bread. Bake. Failure – somehow proudly said Gull.

But…

– How can I arrange such a catastrophe during the preparation of bread?

– Thermal magic. Power settings. Failure – Seagull giggled sheepishly.

However, she began to look for years … or rather, not for years an innocent and charming. Especially impressive its appearance became, if we remember that at the time of this conversation, she was still smeared with dough.

– What you just did not hit the fire ?!

It seems that it is not worried that the spell failed. Or the fact that she was able to kill a unicorn – a coincidence? But Thor believed that it is not.

– Wait, you bought especially for this meal?

– Did not have. Ingredients.

– Fx … – Torah does not know what to say.

Indeed, any ingredients they were not at home. And in general, whether they have home food, the Torah would never have met with the Seagull.

– All right, I understand …

Maybe she just had no idea how to oven dough.

But until the matter can be postponed …

– Whatever it was, as we start tomorrow, it would be necessary to discuss the details of the mission. Only the first wash and dry. Water – both get out of the house, to the right.

– Yeah, – Seagull nodded and went outside.

Torah carefully watched her.

– All clear – Akari nodded.

– Shut up.

– So my brother is interested in girls scattered.

– I said, shut up.

– But do not worry. If you appreciate so distracted, I assure you, I will be able to learn not to give this to anyone.

– Too to me, “Do not worry!” – I held in response to the Torah.

***

Gillette squad car parked in the market square, is located in the eastern part of the city.

As they so often sent to various assignments in remote areas, “April” was not only a means of transportation, but also for them overnight. According to the plan, after the meeting with Lord Robert Abarth, they have to meet in “April” with the departed to explore Matheus Karaveem and begin a tactical meeting.

But…

– How did everything go? – Asked Matheus returned, wiping cloth remnants of camouflage paint.

Usually, smooth head that low magician was smeared with paint to such an extent that it became difficult to see anything but hiding under the disguise narrow eyes and a round face,

which even could be called charming.

He looked around the central cabin a little surprised look.

If we imagine that the car – the house and the cabins are the rooms, the center would be a room. But in fact the functions she had much more – here and ate, and talked, and did many other things. Before the central cabin was a cab driver, and her tiny, similar to the nest, the bedroom, as well as storage compartments.

But now it's not important.

– And we are not obvious? – Said Knight Alberic Gillette, on the careful whose face could be seen clearly printed fatigue.

The entire squad was sitting on the Gillette arranged in the central cabin sofas with exasperation on their faces. Smiles were absent at all, let alone Vivi Holopainen looked especially angry.

She was the same age as Zita, and both of them were the youngest in the squad. Right now she is sitting with her back towards Matheus and something metal in the direction of put to the wall plates.

And that something was the needle.

It is a dry sound stuck in a board, from which is already stuck with a dozen of the same.

By the way, it was (quite casually) on the board cut the person signed as "Robert Abarth".

In other words, it is either hated it or even considered his enemy.

– Oh ... well, as usual – Matheus nodded sympathetically.

– Maybe, as usual. But the fact is that ... – with a tight smile, replied the adjutant Gillette, Nicholas Autotor, a large, impressive-looking man belligerently. Pointing the finger at Vivi, he continued, – Today the meeting proved to be extremely short. That's our mood to hell.

– Ah, – Matthews again looked at Vivi.

In front of him he was still only her back, but he easily imagined how her girlish face frowning. She was assassin and while working surprisingly well suppressed all emotions, but in the rest of the time her feelings were expressed very clearly.

– 6 minutes 17 seconds, – said Zita, who, together with Alberico and Vivi went to the house of Lord Robert Abarth.

As Vivi, the girl seemed a child ... but wore glasses.

– I think this is a record.

– What? – Vivi turned to Zita and pouted.

Despite the tremendous skills iglometanii, in a way she seemed even younger than his age.

– What do you say, if it is not to blame, Zita? You're very angry and.

– A-ha-ha, Vivi, more likely, you're mad for us both. So I quickly calmed down, – Zita laughed merrily.

They were born and grew up far away from each other, and the track record they have been quite different, but as soon as they appear side by side as they began to resemble sisters. Perhaps simply because both included in the squad and Gillette were girls, the same age … but they are still wonderfully complement each other.

– I'm sorry that all this happened again – smiling slightly, Alberic said. – I understand that this visit was not for you from pleasant, but I can not appear in public without assistants. The next time you'll take someone else.

– Mr. Gillette – with a sigh said Vivi. – Mr. Gillette, why are you so …

– Eh? Wh-what, something I've done ?! – Alberic blinked in amazement.

Following this, he glanced his comrades in the hope that someone will explain to him what was going on …

– Mr. Gillette – with a grin on his face turned to him Nicholas. – When you finally guess? Vivi and Zita are angry not because of the fact that they were forced to carry out a thankless job.

– Mmm? – Alberic bowed his head in bewilderment.

It looks like he really had no idea.

– They just have …

– Stop! Shut up!

Vivi loudly waved her hand.

The next moment, Nikolai spent in front of a hand, as if wiping the window.

– Be careful.

Because of its large protruding needle palm. Rather, it is stuck between his fingers.

He snatched the needle Vivi out of the air. It was hard to even notice, let alone catch it could only master of the highest class, but Nicholas did not boast about this. Moreover, this trick does not surprise anyone in this room.

Instead of this…

– You shut up, Nick! Fool! – Cried a little flushed Vivi.

Cheeks bowed his head Zita too rosy, but …

– Yes, I did that?

– There is nothing. Honestly – Nicholas said, still holding his hand in front of him with a needle as if he swore to her. – Forget what I said, please.

– Well .. – Alberic nodded, but his face still remained traces of misunderstanding.

Mateus watched the scene looked at the ceiling, sighed and said:

– Well, even so, your visit was not unusual, huh?

The reaction of a noble man, Vivi irritation transcendent simplicity Alberic – as usual.

Alberic squad almost never been welcome.

Perhaps due to the fact that they traveled on the noble houses, behind them a reputation for cheaters.Although, to know, too, can understand. People who would have agreed to the words in a spirit of “we can not explain why, but we want you to give us your dearest treasure” could be either fools or completely freaking out.

– At least, his response was at least polite and decent conversation in a secular society – Alberic said with a shrug.

– It’s pretty bad, – said Mateus. – It is, of course, already in the city. And judging by her movements, she will try by all means to get to the graph Abarth.

– Clearly, – Alberic nodded.

– So you still have not told him anything ..?

– Of course – with some bitterness in his voice said Alberic – I put the Leonardo watch. We need to be ready immediately to go there if something happens. That’s just … the house seemed a bit odd.

– Strangely enough, you say?

– I almost did not see the guard. No … not exactly. Outside the sentries still there, but inside them, in my opinion, in general almost none. Moreover, all security posts, too, are on the outside, and they are clearly rearranged there during rework of an old fortress – Alberic said with his eyes closed, as if losing his memories and thoughts. – However, I doubt that she even be able to get to the mansion of Count Abarth. Rather, we should think on what we will do if Abarth catch her after a failed invasion.

– You see … – Matheus frowned. – Maybe … she found herself a pawn. And very skilful.

– …What you said?

– I have called by a unicorn magic, but he was killed.

These words caught the attention of the entire squad Gillette.

Even Vivi stopped throwing needles and turned to Matthews.

– I decided to try to deal with it himself. I was able to notice it, and then I organized the attack, and then …

– "It was possible to notice?" Can not be. As a mage can kill a unicorn at a distance of eye contact? – With suspicion in his voice said Nicholas.

– It seems that the decisive blow dealt it its magic. But someone has won it plenty of time to enable it to expand it and take aim. If that someone is still with her, then we may have a problem.

– … – Alberic exchanged glances with the others. – Probably, all of us go out is not necessary, so as not to attract attention. Sorry, Vivi, Nicholas, but I ask you to prepare. Although I do not believe that the residence Abarth have a problem … but just in case.

– Yes sir.

Nicholas nodded and Vivi immediately got up from the couch.

***

In the preparation and collection of all sorts of little things that could be needed for the job, it took another half a day.

In general, they have provided themselves with supplies of those stocks that have brought with them from ACURE, but some of moisture over time, while others are rotten. Such perishable supplies had to either carry on repairing … either to buy the ingredients and make new ones.

After spending all the money borrowed from Seagull on the purchase, Thor returned home. Seagull just got out of the tomb his gun and fumbled with it.

– Welcome back, – she said, turning around.

Akari, apparently preparing for a job in another room. Abilities saboteurs are not limited to honest battles with weapons. Sometimes opponents had to slack off or put to sleep, and some locks were opened with the help of a strong acid. Often, these substances could not be found in the free market and had to synthesize their own.

And, to prevent complications in case when the synthesis does not succeed, it is most often performed in a separate room.

But right now, Akari is not very interested in it.

– Yeah … I'm home.

-?

Apparently, Seagull realized he was looking at her more closely than usual, and bowed her head in amazement.

– What?

– Oh. Still, why the coffin?

– … – In response Seagull turned back to leaning against the wall of the tomb.

– And who are you? Robbery urban ruler – the request is not out of the ordinary … But why do you always walk around with that coffin?

Gundo can be folded into a much more compact bag.

Sleeps a large container, too, is not necessary, where comfortable fabric, which can be folded. In addition, as the Torah has already managed to make inside the coffin was virtually empty.

– Coffin – a coffin – Chaika said. – It keeps the dead.

– But it is empty?

– So far, yes.

Not a muscle moved on the face of Seagulls, as she said those words.

It meant that she was going to put someone in it.

But who?

It is unlikely that she had in mind some kind of enemy. No one would have an enemy such honors and buried in a coffin.

But it was difficult to believe in fact that it was intended for expensive her person. Usually, people want their friends and family living as long as possible, as if they were dead … then again becomes unclear why the tomb was empty. Perhaps, before it reached the news of the death of a loved one, who lived very far away, but then could not understand why she has to drag myself to the coffin.

Or … it was a tomb for someone who has to die once.

It is possible that for most seagulls.

– Who is it? Who has to die? Or that someone has died?

– … – Seagull ambiguous shook her head.

Either it showed that he can not say either that did not know herself.

Thor was able to ask her a question, but …

– Ya need to do it – confidently rapped Seagull.

– Must?..

– Make. Debt. Mission. Goal. Certainly. … Even if you leave the whole life – Seagull said with a smile. – Try.

– … – The Torah did not find what to say.

Gulls have been no doubt.

Although it is younger than him, but knew exactly what to do, and went to his goal.

And what is he?

Considering himself a saboteur, he refused to lead a normal life, did not know what he will do, and slowly smouldered in this town. Himself he seemed much more … pathetic than a seagull.

– Torah ..?

Most likely, she noticed how his face changed.

Seagull stopped messing with Gundo and looked him in the eye.

– Toru strong – suddenly heard the voice of srebrovolosoy girl.

– …A?

– A lot of know how.

– Oh … you’re about techniques saboteur?

– Yes – Seagull nodded. – A lot of. Elections. Objectives. Freedom of choice.

– …

In fact, she was right.

On the field of battle saboteurs were masters of all trades.

They could be as simple soldiers, to make gunpowder or spread rumors and to raise citizens to revolt and build forts, to cook and to engage in a variety of related things. In addition, they can afford to rely on dirty tricks, which do not allow themselves any soldiers or knights.

Indeed, all of these skills were good and in daily life.

Of course, he was not an expert in anything … but it could be if I wanted to. Saboteur, if desired, could become a hunter, and a carpenter and blacksmith, and the merchant, and generally anyone. Of course, he failed to reach the top skill after such retraining, but in life he could earn without problems.

That's just …

– You know…

Thor did not understand, why did you decide to start this story.

He did not talk about it even with the cancer. However, since she grew up in ACURE with him, I had already had to guess about it.

– I wanted to do something meaningful in their lives.

– … A Meaningful?

– Yes. I would like to have the fact that I was born, grew up and died … there was some sense.

…

ACURE was a small village, hidden in the valley.

Or rather, in fact, it was a group of neighboring villages, but most of them simply called "village ACURE" … Whatever it was, this place was kept apart from the rest of the world.

With him it tied a narrow road … but the village without exaggeration be called a mystery.

But of course, despite the independence ACURE could not fully provide for themselves, and in addition, they had to be aware of what is happening in the world to know who needs the services of saboteurs.

Therefore ACURE periodically visited itinerant traders, who became friends pretty quickly

throughout the village.

For children living in ACURE that day after day performed in the harsh training, the appearance of the merchants who came about once a month, is one of the few entertainment in life. Their stories about life in the outside world replaced the Torah and Akari tales of fantasy worlds. As soon as the time between workouts, the children immediately surrounded the traders from all sides, and talked with them.

One of the girls who came together with the traders, called Hasumin Ulo.

It was fundamentally a trader – was born and grew up among them, and the mother gave birth to her directly in the path from one village to another. She lived like a leaf flying in the wind. I could not call any place home, and with all this, even proud of such a life.

– All I need – a quiet, peaceful life, – she said to the children, saboteurs, who dreamed of a carefree insane battles and exploits on the field of battle. – To see different places. Much to see, much to hear. Much experience. This is enough.

– But then there is nothing left after you, – answered her small Torah. He could not understand and accept its values of life and the definition of happiness. – All this disappears when you die.

– It is not so – with a smile said Hasumin. – Let and will not work on the battlefield, but I can leave behind something. I will leave memories in the minds of the people with whom met. Or...

Cheeks flushed Hasumin and she patted her stomach.

– If I have a child, it would be proof that I lived. And if the children will have it, then I will live with their grandchildren. My life will not be interrupted.

Thor did not know that she has managed to fall in love with one of the young men of their trade group, waiting for his child.

When he learned about it, very upset.

We can say Hasumin was the first love of the Torah.

Of course, he was younger than her by 10 years, and it can not be called true love. Just feelings that the child had to close relatives of the opposite sex, a kind psevdolyubov. Let the Torah was never able to completely accept her choice, but after a few months he began to wish her happiness.

As time went on ...

When Hasumin ACURE came in with the rest of the traders in the next time, her belly became much more.And Hasumin, and her husband talked with the Torah of their child so desired.

But…

…

– When Hasumin came to the village the next time … she died.

– … Died ?!

Most likely, Seagull waiting for that story the Torah of his first love will be much longer. From these unexpected words froze on his face Seagulls fear.

– They were attacked. Gangsters or something like that.

They destroyed the entire squad.

Killed parents Hasumin, and her husband. Judging by the weapons, the bandits were deserters from some Army. Of course, the merchants themselves had adopted and hired bodyguards, but there were too many enemies.

– I still remember what happened in detail.

He always saw it in my dreams.

He had seen it so many times that these memories have become inseparable from him.

He could not forget them, even if he wanted.

These memories have been branded on his soul.

***

– Ah … ah-ah-ah-ah-ah …

Hasumin could not pronounce the words – just cry.

It seemed strange and even amazing what she did was still alive and not lost the vote. Of course, all know that sometimes the persistence and strength of some people far beyond conceivable, but then they had to be a limit. What Hasumin has not died, it was possible to write off except for a miracle. From her tiny body sticking a spear. One even pierced through her from the back, and the tip peeking out of the stomach.

Perhaps she could not die. Maybe she just did not allow myself to die, though I understand that death will relieve her suffering.

– Ah-ah-ah-ah … and … and …

In their hands Hasumin holding a tiny bundle.

It was hard to believe that the person inside it.

– Oh … and … and … and …

But it was her precious baby, wrapped in a blanket.

It was a small life, born in pain and suffering after nine months of anxious waiting.

But … this life is already a thing of the past.

– And … and …

Maybe Hasumin did not notice it.

Maybe he noticed, but did not want to believe it.

The baby died before his mother.

In this there was nothing strange about it. Newborns die due to a trifle. And, looking at the state in which she was Hasumin, it is difficult to imagine that her child would be all right.

– …

Hasumin held in front of him at the hands of a dead child, as if pleading for someone to save him, and went forward.

She handed the baby's body has cooled down speechless and stand there the Torah as if telling him to "save it at least."

It seemed she had no strength to utter a word, but her lips moved …

– F … aluys …

And then force Hasumin exhausted.

They had run out long ago. Perhaps by some chance she simply allowed to live for a few moments – much like a comet's tail burnt lives for a few moments after she burnt to ashes.

She left behind only two corpses.

And even these remains will soon decompose and disappear.

And it will end.

All her efforts. All miracles.

They all disappear without a trace.

And … nothing else will.

All of this – no more than a common thing, and this happens everywhere in the world.

Birth. Death. Birth. Death.

This world – a senseless repetition of these actions.

From such a life in this world there is nothing left.

Just live it does not make any sense.

Therefore…

***

Toru long sigh … and then continued:

– The attack on the merchants, visiting our village – the same as an attack on our side. Suppose that we can not call them our villagers, they are allies of our village. And we had to set an example to others in the same robbers to continue it is not repeated.

Village saboteurs did not belong to any state.

They sold their services to anyone.

That is why they could not ignore those who have harmed either by himself or related people. They were ruthlessly destroy them. Apart from the fact that since they provided ACURE security, it allowed them to advertise their skills.

– Our whole village went in search of the bandits that killed Hasumin, and we defeated them. We did not leave anyone alive, and corpses hung along the road.

– Revenge?

– Yes, – Thor nodded, but his face was grim.

They really took their revenge. Although he did not know exactly who raised his hand to Hasumin and her child, that person will certainly be punished. Thor himself, too, took part in the extermination of the bandits, though, only he stood on guard.

– But … no Hasumin or her child that does not return. I can not do anything about the fact that life is meaningless Hasumin concluded that she still did not leave behind.

– …

Seagull only continued to blink in surprise.

In the words of the Torah appeared self-deprecating tone.

– So I wanted to change the world.

– …Peace?

– I wanted after I left something important. I wanted to work hard and achieve something, what would be left in it. I wanted to burn down, achieving this. Here, I dreamed of a life.

Instead of dreaming about the world. Instead of having to live without meaning, hiding fangs and claws ...

He wanted to die after being left on the body of the world visible scar.

Here's how it felt.

– I – the saboteur, and for me it was the only way. So I continued desperately to train. These were...

Training during which he was constantly on the verge of death.

Now, when the Torah thought about it, it seemed to him that he trained like a damn.

– And I was waiting for my first fight. Battles in which I was able to do something that is not capable of a single soldier or a knight. I did not need neither fame nor the Order. I wanted only one thing ... the feeling that I could change the world.

It seemed to him that it was for that he was born in the village of saboteurs.

These thoughts helped Thor to go through all those workouts.

But...

– War is over.

– ...

– Fight suddenly became a sin.

Sculpted to perfection saboteur skills, the only "method of changing the world", available Torah were banned.Moreover, the saboteurs themselves began to pursue a "potential troublemakers".

Of course, the saboteurs were able to a lot, but really could manifest itself only on the battlefield and only there could somehow change the world. Yes, they could clean the potatoes and cut radishes, but, like a sword, to show itself in all its glory only on the battlefield. Sword can cut vegetables, but the kitchen knife making is at times better.

Having lost the battle, the sword can not fulfill its mission.

Torah has transformed itself into a sword yourself and reforging almost no yield. He did not dare to reforge itself into something half-hearted.

– I...

– Torah – Seagull suddenly said his name in a tone as if something came up.

– M?

– … – She held out her hand and laid it on his shoulder. – Hasumin. There was a sense.

– Eh?

– Toru remembers. Torah suffers. Always.

– …

She was talking about …

"About the same as saying Hasumin".

– I will leave memories in the minds of the people with whom met.

Yes. He could not forget her.

These memories were too strong.

– Sad event. But.

Palm Seagulls slipped from the shoulder to the back, and then she clung to him, wrapping her arms around him.

– Hey … what are you doing ..?!

– But why. Torah. To come. To me. For help.

Palm Seagulls reassuringly stroked the Torah on the back.

At the very wound left by a unicorn, which is still not healed until the end.

– … Eh?

He never thought, and did not notice it.

But if you think about …

– Therefore?..

When he met her in the mountains, the Torah could just throw Seagull and run. If he had not tried to protect her, he would not have received such injuries. The decision to fight with it was short-term … but why the Torah chose this path?

Since saboteurs do not burden themselves with honor, they relied on logic.

Therefore, they are sometimes scorned for coolness and insensitivity.

Saboteur could not expose themselves to danger to save someone else, if he did not have a good reason.

But if so, why does the Torah at that time risked his life to protect the girl he had seen for the first time in his life? Coolly calculate the situation, he had to come to the conclusion that this bungler be thrown to the wolves, but to run.

Why he chose a different path?

– I…

We can not say that Hasumin and Seagull greatly resemble each other.

Rather, it was difficult to find at least something of what they would have been similar.

… But despite this …

– Thank you. Hasumin, – said the seagull, still hugging the Torah.

Right hand she continued gently stroking the scar on his back.

– …

Thor did not know what to say.

Seagull trying pretty rough associate cause and effect on the basis of a rather shaky logic. Perhaps, even if the case was not a Hasumin, the Torah would have found another reason to protect the Seagull. We can not say that the Torah take decisions solely in the light of what happened with Hasumin.

But let Hasumin death was not all for him … you can not deny that her fate has made a significant contribution to the character of the Torah.

– My life will not be interrupted.

The birth of life.

Saving Lives.

If both of these actions be considered as the embodiment of the continuity of life, it turns out …

– So – suddenly there was a chilling voice of the soul. – Perhaps, I am now very convincingly ask you to tell us what exactly you are doing.

-?!

Toru sharply alienated Seagull.

Of course, the Torah does not contributed to the development of the situation, but the man who had just appeared behind the Torah, it might seem that they Chaika hug.

– No, wait, you did not understand everything!

Toru spun.

He saw Akari with habitual indifference on his face and a wooden pestle in hand.

Most likely, they grind it purchased reagents. Anyway, at the tip of the pistil still could see the remnants of the powder, which is clearly not worth swallowing.

– Brother – Akari confidently waved pestle and sent it directly to the Torah. – If you have an excuse, say.

– Ah … so here. You did not understand. Just Seagull decided to check my wound and …

Torah began to make excuses, but at the same time and did not really understand why so nervous.

– If she wanted to check your wound, could you turn your back to it.

– Damn … why your insight begins to work only in such moments ?! – Howled Torah.

By the way, she Seagull, apparently, did not even realize what exactly is the question, and looked in amazement at the skirmish Akari and the Torah. Perhaps, from her point of view, it is really only stroked the wound Torah and nothing more.

– How do you hard, bro. But I believe that you finally want to work … you have to pull the hands of our customers, – said Akari, sadly shrugging. But as the emotions she still did not show, the gesture looked pretty feigned.

– Hey, are you trying to say that I often dismiss his hands? – I held in response to the Torah.

– So, now you are not dissolved them?

– Do not disbanded, of course – the Torah said drilling Akari look. – Specifically, today I did not do anything.Seagull suddenly decided to check … my back, but nothing that was not the case. The very look.

With these words, the Torah pointed to the Seagull.

She continued to sit, bowed his head in bewilderment and flapping eyelashes. By the way, the Torah never knew how old she is. In any case, the arms of a girl, looking around in the middle of the second decade, is quite pleasing, regardless of the purpose for which she went for it.

But back to the topic …

– Clear. Good. Now I know my brother – Akari nodded, satisfied – I never cease to marvel at the level of your chastity and how jealously you protect their innocence, brother.

– Stop lying so shamelessly.

– So, Chaika Trabant – said Akari, directing the pistil in the side of Seagulls.

– M?

– Let you and our customer, I will not let you take her virginity and even my brother. If you're ready to go to the end, I propose to cast it in stone-scissors-paper.

– Stop playing me. Anyway, shut up already! – Toru cried, punching the wall.

***

The operation started at midnight.

Of course, partly the timing was due to the fact that the storm someone's castle in broad daylight – Shaped folly, but the main reason was that the seagull as a container for your Gundo used ordinary coffin in the daytime attracted too much attention. Since the interest of the inhabitants of the city they could not help absolutely nothing, it was decided to put forward only after street fell asleep.

– So … – Thor said.

They were in an affluent area, surrounded on all sides amid the greenery of the trees and streets.

To be more precise – on the roof of a very tall building from which examined urban house of the ruler.

Between them and the ruler of the house was something about 100 meters in a straight line. Despite its heavy equipment, the Torah could doprygat to enter the four stages in about 15 seconds, and with the help of "Zheleznokroviya" and even faster. But "Zheleznokrovie" can not be maintained indefinitely, so activate it, he was in no hurry.

– Nothing unusual I have not noticed. We act according to the plan.

– Well, – said Akari, nodded and slowly lifted extended down from the edge of the roof of the right hand.

Hand this she held the collar of seagulls, which rises like a kitten. Incidentally, the coffin, which she always carry with them, looked up at the roof of the Torah, and he was lying at his feet.

– Without it, nothing is impossible to do? .. – Sadly said Toru, casting a glance coffin.

Of course, to say that the Seagull literally never parted with him, it is impossible, but at least

she could not calm down, if the coffin was not in line of sight. Toru offered to get out of it and pack it in Gundo inconspicuous bag, but she stubbornly did not want to listen to him.

Gundo from the start was not good for close combat, but due to the fact that the Seagull, this little girl was dragging on itself a heavy load, to move it has been particularly difficult. It might seem that it would be best to leave it behind her to support them from a distance, but particularly now it was impossible – Seagull has to go along with them, because she could finally understand what they need, but once inside the mansion.

– Can we at least inside the house is not going to drag him?

– No, – said Gull, looking askance at the Torah. – I will not let it.

– You're just trying to complicate our lives … – muttered the Torah and then again replayed in his head a plan of action.

In the end, their mission was to ensure that it is necessary to penetrate into the ruler's house and steal something. They do not have any house owner to kill or break the fortress to the ground … so that their task in this respect relatively simple.

The problem is different … they did not know what that "something".

Rather, they not only did not know where exactly this "something" is stored, and how it should look in itself.

It was a mystery.

According Gull, this kind of magic reagent, and hence it can be integrated in a specific construction, or just stored in the safe.

In the end, it all comes down to the fact that the Seagull, the magician, was personally present on the job, to determine what they are looking for. Torah and Akari completely versed in magic and could accidentally steal anything else. If Robert Abarth prudent man, he could do this specifically for the false copy of the object.

So.

Torah and Akari were extremely careful to invade the house of the ruler of the city and take it with a Seagull and her coffin. Of course, they could not argue with the Seagull, his client, but she herself is likely to understand what was the weak point of the team. Not only is it uncomfortable, she lacked the skills robber or melee. Skills Gulls were not good neither for quick power assault and robbery, or for a quiet and inconspicuous intrusion theft … and, most of all, which is why she has decided that she needs help.

– Okay, let's go. Akari, I'm ahead.

– I realized – she nodded.

Seeing this sign, the Torah pushed from the roof.

In order not to slide, it is pre-greased shoes weak resin. Deftly bending the knees, Toru moved almost silently. He quietly moved from roof to roof, coming to the house right on the line.

During yesterday's attacks, he more or less memorized the location of the building guard.

In each of the corners of the mansion located observation tower, which were monitored area. In addition, the yard went to watch, whose main task was tracking the dead zones towers. It was a well-known simple system used in the majority of the noble houses.

Given the size of the mansion, he served at least hundreds of people, and potentially they could play the role of time. Due to the long war with many servants could be some battle experience.

Of course, the entire population of the mansion pereubivat unrealistic.

Thor The plan was that he had to find out first where inside the house are kept valuables, and what it looks like from the inside, then most will find safe passage, and then join it Akari and Seagull.

– …

For the first time in a long time it was a battle suit.

And the weapons that he almost never used.

He had only to change clothes, and the Torah clearly felt awakened fighting spirit inside him.

Village ACURE founded for the sake of battle and existed for them.

Thor was born and brought up in it. He was born and brought up for battle.

Their training was so severe that some people died before the first real battle. Blade, who will never see battle. Blade, who will break from rust, never leaving its sheath. That is how you could describe the main fear of the Torah.

All men once to die.

Therefore, he wanted to cut the body of the world is proof that he lived in it.

He wanted to fulfill the purpose for which he was born and lived.

In fulfilling its purpose and die – that's what was the meaning of human life.

And therefore…

– That's just it is not a battlefield, – sarcastically whispered Torah.

This time it was just a burglar.

But still…

– So…

Thor jumped particularly high and far.

Jumping, he took out a small mirror and waved them behind.

At the same time, he began to turn and shot out a thin chain, hidden up his sleeve. Weighted metal claw fastened to the end of the chain flew over the fence surrounding the territory of the mansion, and caught on top of one of the observation towers.

Overhead, the Torah is something whistled.

Actually, no.

Around the tower appears like a ring of space violently suppresses all sounds inside. Instantly verse and the rustle of the night wind, and the voices of insects, and other barely audible noise – perhaps it is this sudden silence and Toru took over the sound.

He described to the chain length of an arc, like a pendulum, then latched on about the middle of the tower.

– …

He threw a quick glance upward.

No signs of movement from the time it was not fasting.

The absorbent zone around the tower – “action zone” magic – and drowned out the sounds of Torah chain.Naturally, it was the magic of Gulls. According to her, it was the spell “sucker”, which creates a vacuum, and sound absorption – one of its possible applications. In other words, the vacuum layer of deadened almost all the sounds.

– …Well.

After checking on the spot whether his weapons and tools, Tohru began to climb the chain.

Time bypassing mansion once an hour.

In other words, drowning out the time that were in the towers, they could win yourself an hour of time.

– Well, so …

At the top of the tower was so crowded that if there would have sat 2 people, then no one else there could not even stand up. You could just deal with surveillance of the territory, and

nothing else. Without her fence, from a friendly clap on the shoulder, you can easily fall.

– When it became clear that the sale of my brother very sour …

– I've heard it a thousand times.

With each other talking two years time 40, leaning on the railing of the tower.

Torah carefully calculated movements, then quickly rose to the top and …

– A?! – Heard brief cries at a time when the guards got quick strokes from the back and disconnected immediately.

By the way, what the Torah calmed time, without using weapons, was not associated with any attack of mercy, nor a desire to demonstrate its commitment to a code of honor. Simply, he was afraid that the smell of blood in the air will give raznosyaschiysya their invasion too early.

Losing consciousness, time immediately settled on the floor.

Toru quickly picked them up and tied a cord to the fence and poles, to give "sentinel" species.

Normally territory fortresses built up quite a complicated way to confuse potential enemies, but because of this and formed a huge amount of hiding places. Sentinel towers are built so that you can see the top offenders.

In the ruler of the mansion had 4 sentinel tower, but now one of them is blind, having secured where a quarter of the territory. Now Akari and gulls should not have any problems with the penetration of this side. The next task was to find the Torah probable locations of important things, finding the shortest path to it … and if on the way he will meet other people, he had to lull and, further weakening the defense of the mansion.

– Well, go ahead.

Thor came down at the same circuit on which he climbed the tower.

After that, he took refuge in the shadows and began making their way into the mansion.

***

From the top of lookout towers flashed reflected light of the moon – the agreed signal.

– Well…

Akari nodded and turned to the Seagull.

The one continuing to carry the coffin, clung to Akari back even stronger.

– Hold on tight.

– I Got it.

Akari. Gull. And the coffin.

Let the coffin is actually almost empty, but it is clear that this burden is still very heavy for Akari. However, she was completely indifferent face took on his back Seagull and the coffin, and then …

– “I am the steel.”

She began to read the keywords “Zheleznokroviya”.

All the muscles of her body fell sharply, swung her hair … and then stained in the color of blood.

– “Steel no fear,” “doubt become unknown”, “standing against the enemy, I will not hesitate,” “I have a gun, carrying your death …”

Instantly becoming twice as strong, Akari pushed off the roof and raced forward.

***

Thor got inside the mansion, moving from one hiding place to another. Inside the house roughly corresponded to the plan that he presented himself, looking at it from the outside, and it allowed him to travel more confidently.

Disposition of the mansion has not brought surprises.

But…

– ..

Thor frowned.

The mansion was surprisingly deserted.

Outside it, as expected, he met the time, but was not observed in the immersed in darkness patrols mansion.Even the lock on the door was very simple and not at all held the Torah.

“What’s going on here?”

house air was filled with a strange feeling.

Torah could not clearly describe what kind of feeling, but it was like a vague anxiety.

In general, the Torah has never had to sneak into the house of a noble or a rich man … maybe he’s just nervous because of the fact that he was in an unfamiliar environment. Or

maybe not.

“It’s so dim, as if …”

As if it swallowed a huge body.

“No … this is no time to think about it.”

Shaking his head, Thor threw the alarm out of my head.

“The place where you can leave an important thing, not so much.”

Since this is not a work of art, it is unlikely in the warehouse or in the pantry.

And even more so, it is hardly graced these walls.

And that means …

“In the heart of the house, in the bedroom or office. In extreme cases – in the room, which of them can be reached quickly. ”

All of these rooms are in the same place.

“Somewhere here”.

Despite the questions hovering in his mind, the Torah confidently made his way to the central part of the mansion.

“Probably, Akari and Seagull too soon infiltrate the mansion” – figured Torah, coming into the room like a cabinet.

As he entered late at night, the light does not light within the room. The shutters on the windows were closed, so the light of the moon, too, nothing helped. Reigned pitch darkness.

But…

– …?!

The next moment the Torah dumbfounded turned.

There was someone. He suddenly sensed someone.

And then…

– Hmm.

The room was flooded with light dramatically.

But this was not the light of a candle or lamp. This bright that momentarily blinded by the Torah. It could create only by magic. Someone turned on a special device that emits a

light? Had he been in the house a simple layman, such a thought would not even have occurred to him, but some notable people loved these gizmos.

– So what are you, a thief.

In the center of the cabinet was a man of middle age.

Blonde strong constitution.

Who is he – was evident in exquisite facial features and to put on a large body of luxury nightwear, embroidered with gold thread. The owner of this room and around the house, Robert Abarth.

– I decided not to postpone and come right now? As I thought, at the rural nobility absolutely no manners.

– ..

Thor did not understand what his companion said.

– But it does not matter. I just thought it would be a shame to get a “treasure” and never let him in the case.Suppose you and a dirty thief, but again failed to get as deep as I understand it, you can hardly be called a novice, – said the owner of the mansion in a sarcastic tone, pacing around the room.

Only now the Torah noticed a collar around the neck of the graph. From the collar departed thin wire down the back, then he walked across the floor and went into the office wall. Then his trail was lost, and tell what he was connected, it was impossible.

It seemed as though Earl was attached to the room, like a dog.

It is a strange sight.

But…

– Yes … what is it? – Thor whispered, standing up in the rack.

But anyway…

What was this anxiety?

At the very moment when there was a graph, then the concern that all this time felt the Torah, it has reached its peak.

And then…

– …?!

The fact that he managed to escape, could be blamed only on luck.

Maximum – the fact that the Torah suddenly thought that behind the count was so dark that it could sit in ambush soldiers, because it happened at the very moment.

Something has broken off the wall and flew with great speed in his direction.

Torah immediately ducked, dodging.

Overflying thing cut mask hiding his face Torah, and flew further.

–

Fearing a second attack, Thor jumped aside, for a moment, looking round the flying thing – it turned out to be a sword, before hanging on the wall of the room. Most likely, it was not meant for battle – handle it was decorated so rich that it can hardly be comfortable to hold, and the blade was so thin that the real battle would immediately broke. The sword stuck in the wall and shook with the impact.

But…

– What?!

On the other side, from where came the sword, there was not.

Graf was in a completely different place. He never would have not been able to reach the hand of the sword.

But while he was able to organize the attack?

– Oh. Impressive. Although mean you still a boy, it looks like you're somewhere studied?

–

The Count saw his face. It was bad.

But now there was no time in the Torah to worry about it.

Because…

– And if so?

Simultaneously with the words Count all sorts of things in the room, suddenly flew toward the Torah.

Vases, ashtrays, pens, frames, candlesticks, swords and other things. They all suddenly rose into the air, while the graph is not even touched him, and then flew to the Torah on a murderous speed.

– Heck!

Thor grabbed his stilettos attached to his belt.

Tattoos on the hands touched the emblems on the handle komboklinkov, and added new sensations Torah – komboklinki became part of his body, and he began to deftly shoot down their flying things.

– So that's it …

Then Thor realized.

Count Collar meant that …

– So you – the magician ?!

– Of course. Or do you think that military glory can win only the soldiers and knights? – Sarcastically replied the count.

All became clear. Count used magic. The collar was a cord connecting the graph with its Gundo. That's the magic of making things fall apart from their seats and fly to the Torah.

But…

"How can he use magic in this way?"

He continued to beat and shoot down things, but they stubbornly rose into the air and continued to fly in the Torah. Doubt that behind this was magic, was not, but …

"How can reading the spell? And in general, what kind of magic is this ?! "

Magic spells – sophisticated techniques with lots of formalities, consider the location of the magician, his purpose, spacing, direction, temperature, humidity and many other parameters. It is for this reason that magicians could not fight on the front lines. If the magician, who was forced to consider their position and mutter under his breath for long spells, tried to join the melee, he could win with his bare hands.

But the count did not utter a single magic word.

And it was not like he expected to stress their position and the distance between them and the Torah. The attacks took place too quickly. And it's all for the magic, allowing to carry out such attacks frequent?

– Ha-ha. Against me, the magician, is a fighter with blades and can not do anything. Remarkably, – Earl grinned.

His face twisted in the Torah these words – they were full of arrogance mouse mocked cat. He seems to have decided that won the Torah. What could kill him at any moment. And while he may have a little fun with him.

– Do not flatter yourself!

Repulsed another flying and swirling in the air contraption, Toru ducked, and the next moment pushed off from the floor and rushed to the graph. No matter how big nor was the study, leg strength Torah easy enough to shorten the distance between him and the Count to this, with whom he would be able to get on it stilettos.

But…

– …?!

In the air, the Torah suddenly met her body resisted.

Invisible something caught him and then thrown in the opposite direction. Somehow regrouping in the air, the Torah has landed on the wall, I put out the momentum, and then sank to the floor. Tap it against the wall for a reason – and without a few broken bones would not have happened.

– What was that? .. – Whisper reached him … at the same time starting to understand what is happening in part.

Lack of protection inside the house due to the fact that it was simply not necessary. The Count himself was so strong that it could in no time to deal with the enemy unprepared. Actually … that raised them to the hype yet no one came running, due to the fact that the failure to prevent the emergence of the contrary could graph.As the Torah had already noted, at the behest of Count flying objects were not as well-aimed. They could easily hurt the person accidentally wandered here.

However…

– Hmm … and you're pretty strong. As might be expected, – Earl nodded. – But what do you say to that?

If until this very moment things were flying at him on stage, but now they rose into the air at the same time.

Toru was surrounded.

– Die, thief, – said the Count with a sadistic smile on his face.

And at this very moment.

– Brother! – I heard a scream, and with it – whistling throwing dagger.

He flew the exact count, but in the next moment suddenly froze in the air, losing all the energy helplessly fell to the floor. At the same time it fell on the floor and other objects, as if someone had cut through the skin, where they were hung. The air was filled with the roar of falling things.

And then…

– Do not come, Akari, it is dangerous! – I exclaimed Thor, stepping out of the room.

There was already Akari, clutched in his left hand once throwing dagger, and the right – your favorite hammer.

– Who is he, brother?

– Mag. Probably. But it is very strange. It does not use Gundo and does not read any spells.

– Hmm …?

Akari instantly realized the strangeness of the situation.

He did not waste a second to spell and not aiming Gundo, but despite this, “throwing” the spell continued to operate and operate. Is this magic can exist?

And here…

– Mag …?

From behind Akari stuck his surprised face Seagulls.

Apparently, being a magician, she could not respond to the words of the Torah.

But…

– Do not put out!

In the Torah did not have time to defend and even clumsy Seagull. He had no time even pronouncing the key words “Zheleznokroviya”. Why, one idea to utter these words should be enough to bring down the concentration and to the next blade off the place …

– … !!!

But nothing flew.

Moreover – Robert Abarth shocked staggered and stumbled.

– You … – he moaned.

While all this time, he looked at the Torah from the top down and spoke arrogantly, now it could only clap his lips like a fish thrown on the shore. Finally, he was able to utter:

– It’s impossible. We killed you!

– ..

To whom it is addressed?

Obviously not to the Torah. And it is unlikely to Akari.

And that means …

– Killed …?

He spoke with a puzzled bowed his head Chaika Trabant?

But…

– Can not. I remember, I remember well!

The air is again up all sorts of objects.

– We need to retreat! – Exclaimed Thor grabbed Seagull and ran with Akari in the corridor.

***

– Magic. Likely. Gundo – the whole house, – said the seagull, managed thoughtfully, arms folded on his chest, under his arm Torah.

As they fled the mansion, Toru briefed them about the ensuing battle. He wanted to hear the opinion of an expert about this strange magic.

– The whole house? .. – Reflexively repeated Torah. – Clear.

It really explained everything.

The absence spells. The absence of visible Gundo.

Now it seemed obvious. Gundo Count was his own house.

Despite its name, Gundo does not necessarily have to look like a rifle or magic wands. Gundo could be any thing that has the necessary features. Make Gundo smaller than the standard size is very difficult, but it turned into a large object snap.

As far as magic itself, the Torah assumed that this set of throwing spells, but I was wrong.

Spell it created a kind of invisible hand that moved on the graph will. He was not singled out for a spell cast on each object.

Maintaining a spell for a long time demanded a serious and big magic power Gundo. However, the moment the issues with him is not caused.

– It turns out that he did not read the spell for the same …

The main objective was to set up spell places to which will apply a spell, as well as the transmission of information on the location of the magician … but the spell that acts on the territory of the still house, not aiming at any specific point and is used standing in one place for the count, setup was not necessary.

– Short, – he whispered the Torah. – It turns out that the house can be considered as his body …

It is not surprising that he felt anxiety. Most likely, the magical invisible hand graph enveloped the whole house. And to use it, he has to feel it. We can say that the Torah squad ran inside their opponent's body.

– No. Wait a minute – the Torah suddenly stopped.

– Brother? – Akari also stopped and turned around.

– So, in a family house no one else due to the fact that … and then what happened, it is too …

Apparently, there were no other people in the family house – or, at least, they did not came running, in spite of the raised noise – because the Count could not distinguish their enemies from allies.

– It seems that the word "hand" explains it all.

Earl did not see them or hear – he knew where they were, solely because of the sense of touch.

And besides …

"He can not perform more than one action at a time."

The count was only one "invisible hand".

Otherwise, it is not clear why the Torah is aimed at things fell at a time when the graph is defended by throwing a dagger Akari.

This may limit the possibilities of its magic. Even when he raised up in the air a lot of things, this was the "rise of the heap." According to his own feelings, he did not raise each thing separately.

– Seagull?

– M?

– Where have you placed Gundo core, if there was a Count? Inside the mansion, of course.

– Min. Influence. Outside. At home.

– That is, in the center, right? – I whispered the Torah and Seagull lowered to the floor. – Akari, you're with seagulls track down where he hides Gundo. I distract his attention. It seems that when he starts to attack, it can only do something one. At least two "arms" of the time, he can not summon. You have to cut the thread of his life, while I fight with him.

– Well … – Akari nodded in agreement with the plan.

Torah also left them at the next turn and ran on himself.

***

Lord Robert Abarth felt irritation.

In the end, he did not manage to kill the thief.

– But I have finally managed to bring his plan into reality thanks to the very same things. It is necessary to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

During the battle, he often had to endure the insulting smile on the part of soldiers and knights.

Magee has an impressive power, but because they could use their skills, just standing on the spot, at the front it was not the case. Moreover, this is why the magicians could not fight alone, and that is why the soldiers and knights often looked down on them. Even ordinary people are often considered magicians or “servants” of soldiers, or “spare instrument.”

This was facilitated by the fact that the battle mages appeared relatively recently.

Before the invention of Gundo, greatly simplified rituals and reduce the spell, they were hardly met in the army ranks. And the first country that managed to embody Gundo in reality, it was “demonic” kingdom Empire Gas. In short, public opinion about magicians often had very negative.

Abarth were hereditary warriors.

The pedigree of the graph there was a lot of people who have won military awards. Of course, this does not mean that from generation to generation family led by great warriors, but people who have reached the martial arts great strides in Abarth family had very much. Basically, it is because they grew up in such a family.

And, of course, Robert initially also taught martial arts.

But … when he was 10 years old, he shattered his elbow on his right hand.

The hand was restored to such a state that he felt no discomfort in everyday life, but the doctor said that Robert would never normally be able to use a sword.

Since then, life has turned into hell, Robert.

Father, mother and even vassals their families immediately ceased to expectations, as if to say to him that he was useless. Suppose that at first glance they behaved to him as usual, but subtle changes in gestures and words enough to understand the depth of their despair.

He could no longer hold a sword.

He could no longer be applied in any way serious blows.

So … he had to change his sword on something else.

That is why Robert turned to magic. It seemed to him that if he achieved success in it, you could become a successful warrior, not relying on the blade.

For this reason Robert was trying my best to prove himself in battle as a magician, and took part in the final battle. He does not just have to be on the verge of death, and therefore he was able to get their hands on one of the rare “awards”, which has got only a few soldiers.

And it is this “reward” lurking in the corner of his bedroom, and connected with the control kernel Gundo, allowed him to turn his house into a huge Gundo and create with the help of spells.

Finally, thanks to this power he could with his own hands (in all senses of the word) to strangle the soldiers and knights. And right in the melee. Robert is therefore said to his servants, that they did not intervene. He wanted to fully enjoy this power. If the mansion had someone other than the enemy, to distinguish between friends and foes would be difficult, and it would have been nowhere near as fun.

But at the same time…

– This girl…

This girl that stood behind thieves.

She should be dead. They killed her.

No, even if she somehow managed to survive the incident, since it’s been 5 years. Why does it look as if he did not matured? Given its age, over the 5 years she had to change dramatically. Why, then, its appearance has not changed?

– No … – Robert whispered, suppressing their growing concern. – No matter what happens … if we were not able to kill her then, I only have to kill her now.

She was a girl who must die.

Rather, the girl who can not afford to stay alive.

And if so … nothing to prevent him to kill her again.

– Well … – Robert said, walking down the hall to the connecting cord, dragging him across the floor. – At this time I will break you, thief.

Nipper stood in the corridor depth.

He was not hiding and not run away.

He just stood there, his head bowed slightly, as if resigned to his fate.

But…

– “Standing against the enemy, I will not hesitate,” “I have a gun, carrying your death …”

Hair thieves, whispering incomprehensible words …

– ..

Robert frowned.

Hair stained crimson.

It seemed that his blood flows directly through them.

– So you…

He had heard about them.

People for whom there was no concept of chivalry and military duties. People, the meaning of life is reduced to the very battles. Experts are ready to take on any work related to the war. Saboteurs. They have developed a mystical art, which allowed to enhance their bodies after casting special phrases known as keywords.

– Saboteur ?!

– ..

Very exhale, a thief attacked.

***

Iron Hammer easily kicked in the door.

action “Zheleznokroviya” Akari time has come to an end, but not too strong to break the door and she was his own power.

Since Gundo did not move, could not think of the direction of travel, speed and so on – but the spell also affected by other conditions, such as humidity and temperature, and possibly Gundo should be placed where these parameters are changed the least.

Therefore, it is likely to be in the heart of the mansion.

In the bedroom of Count, side by side with the cabinet.

– Which? – Asked Akari, Thunder bed, wardrobes, candlesticks and other furniture with his hammer.

Count Magic was very dangerous. Of course, Akari did not believe that being under the

influence of “Zheleznokroviya” quickly lose the Torah, but the spell (which apparently is called “Invisible Hand”) from the protected Count throwing daggers and throwing things allowed with deadly speed. And throwing, and ordinary daggers were useless against the graph. In the Torah there was no chance of winning.

If they do not have time, then “Zheleznokrovie” or end, and Thor will kill, or else it will not abolish it, and, in the end, his body will not stand.

– Here ..!

Chaika pointed the finger at the crack, which did Akari hammer in the wall.

– From the road!

Akari shrank into the ground and brought down his hammer on the crack exactly. The side scattered scraps of wallpaper and chips false wall, revealing a huge mechanism by which the tube ran like veins glowing blue light.

–

Using the remaining inertia Akari swung again and struggled down the hammer on the engine.

But…

– What the?!

Its hammer with a thud bounced back.

– This … is the same force that repelled my throwing dagger ?!

If you think about the destruction of Gundo obviously to dispel magic. The Count would not depart from it, if it was not protected.

– Magic.

Seagull nodded. All this time she collected in her coffin Gundo. When finished, she pulled it out of the coffin and sent to the machine.

– Dispel. Then. Loma.

– Hurry! – Exclaimed Akari.

***

“In short – it’s hand.”

Torah understood explanation of the case.

Magic created a giant invisible hand and allowed her to use. This explains the fact that the spell could stop a flying thing, and to throw them. Both of these actions were opportunities “hands”. Most likely, she might seek, but only to the touch, and that is why Earl could not tell the attackers from their servants.

But these restrictions are ended.

Count Magic did not allow to create and use your other hand. The hand was just one. That is why, as soon as the Count stopped throwing dagger, all raised them in the air things immediately caught. At the same time, this restriction only applies to two different actions. Several identical action hand to carry out the same time – so the graph can throw a few things at a time.

“In short …” – thought the Torah, dodging flying in his things. – “His magic is limited to focus, rather, concentration.”

Whatever custom nor was this magic, she ran in the end, the will of its owner – himself a magician.

In other words – the master control it exclusively with your consciousness.

Apparently, the magic could not take any independent action.

– What do you twitch something here and there? .. – Earl said irritably.

– And you’re slow. No wonder, because you only magician – Tohru responded by trying to bring him even more angry.

– Shut up, you miserable saboteur!

The air trembled from the thunder.

Be the Torah in a normal state, he would not even notice the attack.

But thanks to “Zheleznokroviyu” his eyes had to see how the air is heated from the friction of himself. Easily dodging attacks, he abruptly walked to the graph.

But…

– N-ng!

Graf quickly took a “hand” … rather, he withdrew it, and then reincarnated beside him.

The attack, which had the Torah, is reflected from it, without reaching the count.

He even still has not managed to get to the count, no matter how he attacked him.

And what’s more …

– Well. Now, you have nowhere to run – suddenly earl said with a look of self-satisfaction on his face. – You have not noticed that myself cornered?

– …

Thor did not answer.

But he understood why the Count pronounced these words.

A long corridor. No branches and forks – turns it was not even in the depths. Torah has put himself on the straight road, and retreat he was already nowhere to go.

Earl had just thrown his “hand” forward.

She would have filled the entire corridor, and then be crushed pathetic “thief” on the far wall.

– And now die, thief. Do not worry, after you and I will kill that girl, which somehow managed to not die in the last time.

– You’re talking about The Seagull?

– Seagull? Ah, so that’s her name – at the Count’s face appeared sadistic smile. – It seems that you’re helping her, even without knowing who she was. What a pitiful sight. In the end, saboteurs – just wild dogs, who can not choose their hosts, just a relic of the past.

– In general, you are right, of course – Toru said. – But now I will explain to you what exactly you’re wrong.

– And what?

– The fact that I’m cornered.

– … – Count frowned. – What kind of pathetic bluff? Okay, it’s time to dying …

– Saboteurs … – almost inaudibly said Toru, – … are different from soldiers and knights.

And as soon as these words there came to the ears of Count …

Gender corridor under his feet suddenly collapsed.

While the Torah was running, he clipped the floor with their swords. Of course, the meaning of roll floor once there was no, but Thor guessed that when Earl decides if the Torah had driven into a corner, then definitely try to finish him his “hand”.

And thereby he would strongly pressed both the ceiling and the walls and the floor.

– Nn-ah ?!

Count reflexively stopped its fall “hand.”

But this action was completely meaningless.

Let the Torah and was under the influence of “Zheleznokroviya”, but even he could not break through the floor of the second floor stilettos through. Count only the legs fractured planks laid on the floor. Neither fighter, more or less follow the course of the battle, I would not have made such a stupid mistake which would have led him out of the fight.

Toru Traps based on the fact that his opponent from the outset could not pay attention to what is happening.

– ..

Graf said that to his face at high speed approaching the stylet.

Toru projectile attacks.

Then he took hold his hand, the graph of protection against attacks.

But he had to fight off the stiletto …

– Nn-eh ?!

As the Count saw another.

First Stiletto was a bluff. Right behind him at a short distance and at the exact same trajectory flew the second cannon. When Earl beat the first, he had to pull the plug side. Using the helplessness, the blade bit into his left shoulder graph.

– Gha-a ..?! – He howled.

The next moment, chipped and stuck like a stiletto in the ceiling, as well as a stiletto, thrust into the Count’s shoulder, back in the palm of the Torah. These were tied handle thin wire, stretching to the owner.

Thor with a distinct sound caught his weapon.

And then…

– …?!

That anxiety, that he felt all the time, disappeared.

And when it saw the count, his eyes widened.

– What are you…

– It seems Seagull and Akari managed to destroy your Gundo.

– .. It is also a magician ?!

– Hmm?

Count The surprise was so sincere, that the Torah frowned.

Despite the fact that he apparently knew Seagull, he did not know what she magician. Initially Torah thought he knew her just as a colleague in the profession, but it seems to have been far from the truth.

And then…

– Thor!

Due to the angle of the corridor, is located behind the count, the person appeared Seagulls and Akari.

– Retreat, retreat! Mission Complete! – Seagull cried and threw up her hand, which was something like a glass bottle.

It seems that this is the thing she is looking for.

– Got it, – said the Torah, and then pushed off the land by jumping over holding on to his shoulder pierced graph.

– What are you?!

I think he was surprised by the fact that the Torah did not finish it. Graf turned in amazement seeing the Torah, which is quickly crossed the corridor and ran the Gulls.

– We are leaving. Akari, smoke grenades.

– That’s right, brother.

Nodding, Akari pulled out of the belt hanging from smoke grenades bag.

Akari Torah and quickly picked up the Seagull, and then began to run away with all haste.

***

Escape from the house was not so easy.

Torah and Akari had to avoid the escape of views servants using smoke screens until a blown powder, pre-laid Torah. Gunpowder they had synthesized manually, and it turned out quite a bit, but the explosion was able to divert the attention of the guards from the center of the mansion.

– It seems to have escaped … – he said with a sigh Torah, when they in the same breath reached the street, along which grew a row of trees.

Along the way, he abolished “Zheleznokrovie” because the body can not withstand the constant use of this technique. Over time it can be kept only a few minutes, then needed a mandatory break.

But back to the topic …

– Something we all came out messy. Well, at least somehow managed to escape.

According to the original plan, they should not have to meet the Count.

But this graph clearly rigged the ambush, because instead of the Torah expected someone else.

– By the way. This is exactly the kind of thing you’re looking for?

– Yes.

Chaika revealed the Torah that thing all the time tightly pressed to his chest. A cylindrical vessel made of some transparent material – glass or crystal.

And inside …

– Here. Important. Return.

The vessel, which is kept happy seagull was definitely sealed the left hand – either human or very like her.

Chapter 4

It seemed as if it was some unknown body.

It could even be mistaken for a worm made of human flesh.

Man's left hand from palm to elbow.

In fact, due to the fact that the hand was floating inside the vessel, it looked like a spider.

Spider, which stretched their legs in all directions. The palm of the hand was not clenched, but looked as if it was trying to do. Apparently, in this state, the palm is easiest to fix.

– This is the important thing? – The Torah could not resist and asked a question.

It was the same thing for which she hired people who stole them in the house of Count and, in the end, to fight with him (though this, in one sense, is simply the result of the rest). In the Torah it was not even clues, based on which it is possible to speculate, but he still thought it would be some gem or piece of art.

– Yes – Seagull nodded confidently.

It looks like she did not doubt. Having removed the coffin from the back, she opened it, and then tied a cord to the middle of the cylinder wall of the left – to the very spot where the corpse was left hand, if he was lying in the coffin.

– So your coffin is this?

– Yes – Seagull again nodded.

Her face and no doubt, and sorrow – it was filled with sincere joy.

But…

– What does all of this mean? Why hand? And anyway, it's really a real hand, part of someone's corpse?

– …

– And if this is so, then whose is the corpse?

– … Toru – Facial Gulls a smile. – Akari.

– M? – Akari bowed her head in bewilderment.

– Thank you. Here. Second half.

Once again, stir the contents of the coffin, she took out some coins and handed them to the Torah and Akari.Bogdanski Silver coins used as currency in the Nordic countries. They gladly

accepted anywhere on the continent – the silver content in them was very high.

– Right here? – Sadly said Toru.

He did not mean that it was paying to them right in the middle of the road – she did not even wait until they return home from a mission.

– And wait a minute, you …

– …

Seagull was still smiling, stretching and money to keep quiet.

And the Torah, looking at her, knew that she wanted to say.

“That we do not interfere in this matter?”

Perhaps that is why it is rapidly becoming taciturn when they tried to find out from her at least some details.

It is not known what caused her to go for it, but if she wanted to say that the Torah and Akari for her only temporary mercenaries. The people with whom she was on the way. Not less, but also no more.

Torah and he had not noticed this, but perhaps Seagull began to seem to him a close friend, soul mate.Apparently, he played a role that spiritual ascent, he felt, fighting with a unicorn.

But she was a stranger to them from the beginning.

And so, as soon as the job is finished, she parted with them. That’s all.

They did not know where there were other things that are sought Seagull, but it certainly was going to leave Delsorant to continue the search.

– Thanks! – Again I told Chaika and again held out his hands, which were silver coins.

“What are you waiting for? Take faster, “- as if she was trying to say.

But the Torah, though not for long, but hesitated. He felt himself to questioning look Akari, but still not in a hurry to stretch his hands to the money.

If he took them, in this relationship with the Torah and Akari Chaika would end.

They were to end right here.

But…

– …?!

They are reacted simultaneously.

Rather, Akari little faster. It seems that the training continued to stubbornly disregard haunt him. Whatever it was, the Torah abruptly pushed Seagull and Akari pulled her back.

The unexpectedness of seagull dropped the money, and they are scattered on the road.

And then one of jingling coins …

… Something pierced with a thud.

“What is it?

Same…

Propelling the needle! ”

From the thrust force small body Seagulls off the ground, flying away back to where he was immediately picked up Akari, then stepped back and did not slackening pace, he sprang toward the shade of the nearest building.

All this happened in a moment.

Thor himself immediately jumped on stilettos, pushed off the road and hid behind the shadow of a large garbage bins.

And then…

– Vivi … – suddenly heard a voice from the other end of the street, sounding hurried and anxious. – Why are you so suddenly …

– Mr. Gillette. With all due respect…

The first voice was male and the other, apparently, female.

Out of the darkness slowly swam three figures.

These were…

– Trying to negotiate with saboteurs completely pointless.

– …

Thor frowned.

Whoever these people were, they already knew that the Torah and Akari – saboteurs, and not because they saw the speed with which they responded to the needle roll. The needle flew in them because of what they know in advance with whom they deal, and felt useless conversations. Even reacted Torah and Akari, rather than the needle itself, and the aura of hatred, denunciation of the thrower.

– Who you are?

Fortunately or unfortunately, the Torah from Akari and Seagulls separated road.

But the coffin Seagull was still lying on the spot where she had left him. Samu Seagull is so worried that even the Torah for its part, saw her trying to escape from the grip of Akari.

“Akari …” – Toru quickly turned to her in sign language.

Saboteurs have developed several ways to communicate through gestures. According to their logic, the saboteur should be able to maintain contact with their comrades in all circumstances – whether it’s a raging battlefield enemy camp or sleep.

“Grab and Run Seagull. Meet me behind the house. I’ll take the coffin. Explain Seagull “.

“Yes sir. Retreat with seagulls. Meet behind the house. The coffin will take a brother. ”

Akari nodded.

I am making sure that she understood the Torah from his pocket smoke bombs.

These bombs can either be ignited by friction and begin to smoke or explode from the collision with a solid surface, attracting the attention of the flash and roar. Thor took one in each hand, and then threw them in the direction of approaching people.

There was a muffled sound of an explosion, and the dark street filled flash of light. The eyes of people accustomed to the night lighting, must not have seen the light of this personal.

Akari, holding hands in Chaika, took off like a rabbit running away.

At the same time the Torah flew to the coffin lying in the road.

Grabbing him by the straps (evidently attach for easy carrying), he hoisted it on his back and once again pushed his foot. Immediately after that, he took a last smoke bomb and forcefully threw it behind his back.

But…

– …?!

Saber did not explode.

From the back to the Torah closer figure – surely someone from that group – and pierced his sword blade. So do not get the necessary impact, smoke bomb did not explode.

In other words…

“But he …” – Thor cast a quick glance at the figures approaching him. – “… It is pretty good.”

Behind him was a young blonde with blue eyes.

Most likely, he just turned to his girlfriend doubting voice.

But now this guy has not confused nor flash, no smoke from the bombs – he immediately flew to the Torah, and then stabbed another sword blow strong, but neat, not giving it to explode.

Soldier dropout is clearly not under force.

– You … – flatly he asked the young man in the Torah, already had time to get into a fighting stance.

He was not taking boasted that he had just demonstrated, and this gave to understand what he really capable of. Such techniques were not for him something extraordinary.

– What connects you with the srebrovolosoy girl?

– …What?

– How to Vivi, my subordinate, could say, we know that you are a saboteur. If you just hired for the money, then it all up and leave. For the sake of your own good.

– …

Thor's eyes narrowed.

Apparently, the young man was not joking.

He harbored no animosity toward the Torah, nor anger. In his words, there was no call, no smile. Most likely, he did warn him, he guided his honor.

Due to its growth and stand he looked a little down in the Torah … but the look on his face smacked of purity and tranquility. It was the face of a man, above all, which puts a sense of duty.

But…

– It is because you attacked the residence of Count Abarth?

– …

– Do not worry, I am in no way going to blame you. Of course, praise, too, not for that, but I want to ask you to give us this coffin disappear. If you do this, we will not pursue you. We are only interested in the girl, and the contents of the coffin.

– You mean it Gundo?

– Did not you see the thing the girl had stolen from the residence of Count Abarth?

The young man bowed his head in amazement.

It seems Gundo Gulls was not interested. However, even though the Torah and not much versed in these matters, Gundo Gulls seemed quite old. It is unlikely that this young man was interested in antiques, which means that his group had to be something else.

Namely…

– I do not know what you – the Torah decided to pretend that really does not understand.

He decided it was better to hear all that this person is willing to tell the “good-natured” thief.

– What’s inside this thing?

– …

Without opening his mouth, the young man shook his head.

Did he could not say this? It is hard to imagine that he did not know.

– Mr. Gillette.

Left to the boy approached the girl who moved so easily, as if nothing at all weighed.

She was small and barely got out his shoulder. In appearance she was just as much and Seagull – that is, not more than 15 years.

It is enchanting face.

But at the same time, her dull eyes burned cold light reminiscent of gloss blades.

According to a recent conversation, she just threw the needle.

All right, if that needle just came off from the ground, but once she was able to pierce her coin … it means that it refers to them very cleverly.

– Talking with saboteurs meaningless. With their lips rolled only lies and deceit, – said the girl, which, apparently, was named Vivi.

And then…

– I agree, – said the third man, who gets the right of the young men.

He was a big man with a low, rough voice and broad shoulders. A head taller than boys. Unlike Vivi, the man gave the impression of a cliff, and the appearance of it was filled with such severity that seemed, the air shuddered from his gait, and every step echoed. It was enough to lay down his arms to intimidate their views of any.

In addition to that behind him was a huge sword.

Rather …

“He komboklinok?”

As stilettos Torah, his gun was equipped with machinery.

– The system of values in the direct opposite of knightly saboteurs. On the honest talks face to face they can not.

– Well you give, – said dully Torah. – What is the basis of the assassin and mercenary so speak about me?

– …

– …

In response to the person and Vivi giant only lightly curled.

But the words of the Torah, is likely to hit straight to the point.

“Mr. Gillette”, standing in the middle, was a knight.

A girl by the name of “Vivi” on his left was assassin.

A giant right, the name of which the Torah did not know was, apparently, a mercenary.

These individuals were significantly different from each other. What a mission led them to unite in a raznosherstuyu group?

– Nicholas. Vivi. Whoever he was, our goal – solely the girl. If it is just rented, without explaining anything, it is in no way to blame.

– …

Gillette’s words touched a chord with the Torah.

Why is he so lenient?

It does not seem to Gillette tried in your own words to insult the Torah even more. Most likely, the appearance did not lie, and the young man is really straightforward and honest man. That’s why he was looking down on people is so natural that he did not notice it. If he was a knight, brought up in a noble family, then look at the people who do not belong to the nobility, with the height of something self-evident to him.

But if so …

“So he thinks that I just hired, without explaining anything.”

Thor looked at the scattered on the ground silver coins.

Yes, Gillette words exactly describe the situation in which turned out to be the Torah. It was really random passers-by. He just hired. He was only an instrument, which after the end of the job with seagulls would not connect anything. Seagull and she behaved as if between them exactly such a relationship – no less and no more.

And that is why the Torah … so annoyed that he pointed this complete stranger.

Indeed, he was a saboteur, cruel and ruthless in battle, turning to ethics and morality only in those cases where it is most effective. He is ready to take hostages, if required. He could attack the sly. He could lie, do not sweep eyebrow. He could set the deadly trap. If the soldiers and knights still fought, widely interpreting the concept of a great justice, saboteurs getting any dirty and ugly role of people, do not hesitate to dirty their hands in order to win, which could go to the baseness and cowardice, and to break the taboo of others.

But…

“But that’s why …”

He wanted to achieve something.

He did not want to be just a midge, which would bear from side to side storm winds wartime, and then be finished off by them. He did not want to accept the fact that his life and death have no meaning. Because if so, whether it is possible to call this life?

On the very day when she was killed.

At the very moment that the Torah …

– You’re the saboteur?

– …So what? – Frowning, said Toru Gillette, who seems to have asked him just to one noticed him.

In any case, the Torah things were bad.

Fend off three opponents without smoke grenades and a coffin on the back is very difficult. Maybe if he got rid of the coffin, and at the same time by lying inside the “hands”, the chance he would have appeared, but …

“She is…”

Gull.

She could not speak fluently in their language.

She did not have the people who have helped her, not for money.

And yet, she did not hesitate, like the “hand”. She moved forward step by step, approaching its goal. Most likely, she herself knew how many times has exposed himself to mortal danger. It seemed amazing how such an awkward and clumsy girl was able to do so much to live, if all that time traveling alone. Though the war is over and … rather, it is because the war was over, in this world there was no shortage of thieves and robbers who were former soldiers. Perhaps she has had to endure a lot of hardships, which the Torah does not even know.

But, despite all this … she had no doubt.

And since the Torah has asked for help so stubborn and straightforward girl …

“I can not drop everything and run away.”

Torah Thoughts boiled down to.

He realized that such thoughts to some extent have been unnatural for saboteur. In the end, he apparently could not take part in any battle, not because he lacked this skill, but because the Torah teacher knew about his character.

But…

– I heard that saboteurs – people who act on the basis of the iron logic. It’s one thing if you chose her as his mistress … but if not, then you do not need to cover it. I am a knight, and that’s why I try to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

– How noble of you, – I replied quietly Gillette Torah.

He did not consider him a threat.

Gillette’s words could be reduced down to. “You can not defeat us, so get up on his knees and obey our commands.” He told him that the logically correct option – to give them a coffin and disappear.

“Zheleznokrovie” I can not use. ”

Since then, they crept into the house, less than two hours. Using this technique more often than once in half a day, in every sense of danger.

“Will I be able to win these three without him?”

It would be extremely difficult.

But what could he do?

– Come on. Give us a coffin – commanded him to Gillette.

“I think the Torah ACURE, think.”

Toru scolded himself for being slow and tightly clenched hands that held the strap of the coffin.

***

– No! You can not! Come back!

– Don `t cry.

Akari was running, holding in his hands trying to break free Seagull.

– You'll be a lot of hysteria – cut down.

– M!

Realizing that Akari was not joking, Seagull ceased to resist and fell silent.

– And generally speaking…

Akari stopped and lowered her to the ground Seagull.

They barely moved two blocks away from the place where they were attacked by the three men. Next to them were a few shopping streets. If the day it was very crowded at night so deserted that it became scary. And that's why detect an ambush was easy in these streets.

Fortunately … it seems that no one pursued.

– My brother said that he will take away your expensive coffin.

– True?

– Yes, – Akari nodded, though frowned. – But really … you need to experience for himself.

– M?

– The three … maybe not all of them have the same skills, but if they are as experienced as the one thrower needles, then my brother will be difficult to escape. Especially with luggage.

– Luggage?

– I'm talking about your coffin – furrows on the forehead Akari became even deeper.

– I understand … – Seagull nodded.

– Brother … why you decided … – Akari whispered with the same person, but in a tone as if she could not take anything.

Finally, she shook her head, rejecting extraneous thoughts, and turned back to the Seagull.

– Stay here.

– …

– I'll come back to save his brother.

– Together. And I.

– No. You'll only get in the way – clearly said Akari.

– But …

– Our work is already finished. You're not our customer more. We never had to escort you this far.

– … – Seagull looked like she did not know what to say.

It was not surprising, since she had given them to know that their working relationship is over.

Akari's words perfectly logical.

But…

– Akari … save the Torah – Chaika said, pointing a finger at Akari. – I'll save … coffin.

– I told you, you can not go …

– No. My business. Salvation Torah – your business. Different things. Different.

– …

Now Akari could not find an answer.

In other words, Chaika said that he would return after death, and Akari – in order to save the Torah. They were on the way, but their goals differ.

And, of course, this meant that if Seagull caught and killed due to the fact that it will come back, the blame for this will lie on it, and Akari is innocent.

Akari And as for the saboteur, that option was acceptable.

Furthermore…

– In war, all means are good … – she said, crossing his arms over his chest. – They do not

counting on the fact that we go back? ..

That group was to understand that the first block, abandoned the Torah, it is intended to give the Seagull and Akari escape.

Therefore, we can assume that now they have acted on the basis of the fact that Akari and

Seagull return soon. If suddenly intervene in what is happening … such as by adjusting the attack from the back, then they might have a chance of winning.

– Good. Since so.

– Thank you.

Seagull Akari nodded and smiled.

***

If from what has happened, and it was possible to make some sort of conclusion, only one – the Torah caught more quickly than he had expected.

When he try to get away with a coffin on his back, in front of him and crossed swords giant Gillette, surrounding it on both sides. The sensation began in his neck forced to stop even the Torah.

And to make matters worse …

– It seems you also komboklinki, – said the giant, easily managed with his great sword with one hand. – I also use them.

Soldiers with komboklinkami were very unpleasant opponents.

Due to the fact that they passed the feeling on both sides, they become part of his master. At the very moment when he took it in his hands, a sword and a host of merging into a single organism.

More often it is seen from the point of view that becomes part of sword swordsman body, but the opposite is true.

Swordsman also becomes part of the sword.

And so the battle on komboklinkah “use” of weapons becomes meaningless.

All movements are transformed into military equipment.

– Understand already. No matter how expert komboklinkah you are, from the three of us do not run away.

– …

Torah for some time did not take his eyes off the giant …

– … Heh.

Shrugging, Toru relax.

But his hands straps with a coffin, he still would not let go.

– I'll ask again – once again began to Gillette, keeping the blade on his neck.

His sword was not komboklinkom … but in some ways it was even worse.

This knight just exactly repeated human movement with komboklinkom. Toru heard stories that in families of hereditary knights children learn to handle the blade before starting to walk … and looking at this young man, the impression that these stories are not just stories.

– What connects you with that girl?

– …

– Do you know who she is?

– And you yourself know something? – Thor turned his head slightly, looking at Gillette. Blade slightly dug into the neck and stained with his blood. – Do you know who this Seagull?

– Of course, – Gillette nodded. – We act in the name of justice, at the request of the governments of several states. We pursue it, fully aware of who she is and what she is looking for.

– We are on the side of justice, – put Vivi – unlike you.

– Assassin and justice, yeah …

From the words of the Torah view of Vivi's face darkened, but she did not answer him.

– OK OK. I understood. Chance to win I do not have. I'll give you what you want. Progress?

Toru slowly bent down, placing the coffin Gulls on the ground.

– Hands off.

– Are you sure? – Said the Torah to order giant. – This coffin mined powder charge. If you try to open it by force, it will explode. I do not want to blow up with you because of your carelessness.

– …

Gillette and the giant looked at each other.

they stood thoughtfully a while, and then …

– Well, – the giant nodded. – Turn off the their traps, and then tell us what we want – "the remains".

– …

Torah thought.

They knew that the gull is looking for “the remains”.

This meant that they really knew who this Seagull, for what purpose it is looking for these remains, and to whom they belonged. Of course, to all appearances, they were working for someone else, and there was a possibility that they did not know the whole truth … but it was only the Torah at hand.

Because it means that they can not make some decisions on their own.

Catching his back looks detachment Gillette, Toru pretended “Defused” coffin. Of course, the story of the powder charge was commonplace bluff. However, the fact that they are allowed to open the coffin to his opponent, too, there was nothing strange – as shown by the trick with smoke bombs to the gunpowder these guys are taken very seriously.

And then…

– You mean this?

Thor opened the coffin of Seagulls.

Then he untied the cord and took the very thing that was discussed.

Hand inside a transparent cylindrical container.

Thor lifted him so that they could all be carefully considered.

– Yes. It is this – Gillette nodded.

And the Torah, seeing this, smiled with satisfaction.

– Clear. So it’s – he said quietly … and threw the container.

He threw a sealed vessel in his hand in the darkness.

– !!!

The views of Gillette, giant and Vivi immediately rushed to the side of the hand.

Of course, the blades from his neck, they are not removed, but the blade turned away a man may say, is dead. Torah rescued with force pressed against the neck of the blades back of the hand (for such cases in his gloves were implanted steel plate), then bent down, grabbed the coffin Seagulls and ran with all haste.

– Heck!

– It does not matter forward! – Gillette cried and ran in the direction in which the Torah threw hand.

Vivi immediately rushed after him, and as for …

– And you do not go with them, or what? .. – Asked the Torah at the giant, who gave chase after him, on the opposite side of Gillette.

– With the saboteurs can not relax – the giant said, running just behind the Torah. – All of a sudden you just pretended that threw the remains?

– I'm not that clever.

– Maybe so, – said the giant. – I'm not so good, as Mr. Gillette.

The next moment, the blade flashed in the air komboklinka giant, ready to hack his way.

Toru ducked, dodged, but completely avoid the attack could not, and in the air flew a few hairs from his head.

– Better poumenshit number of enemies, while you can. And their stories I do not care.

– It is a logical decision.

Noticing that the sword turned and flew down on him … with the power of the Torah suddenly swung the coffin.

– A?!

The giant did not expect that the Torah will try to take advantage of the coffin as a weapon. Naturally, he dodged the blow, but to do so he had to move so fast that he lost his step.

– H on! – Shouted out the Torah, then, is not slowing down … I threw the coffin back.

He would have no chance of winning against the giant, if he continued to carry on this burden themselves.

"Better poumenshit number of enemies, while you can" – a wonderful principle. As the knight and assassin Gillette Vivi (so, it seems, was her name) were far away from them, then it is now had a chance to defeat the remaining giants alone.

The coffin, apparently banged against the wall of the building. Anyway, Toru heard behind me a loud thud.Not paying attention to him, Thor grabbed komboklinki and stood in front of a giant.

– Heh – dull giant chuckled. – You're pretty good for a young boy.

– You think? – Thor said, licking his lips.

And in the next moment, they both began to move.

– XH-n!

Giant stabbed with the sword.

Toru dodged fast motion.

Success in battle is determined not only the experience of using komboklinka, not only physical strength, but also the severity of the weapon. Komboklinki themselves are very heavy, and only the sword of this size quickly swinging very hard.

And so … trajectory strikes are very limited.

Since the sword almost could not change the direction of the attack after it has started, the strokes of it was easy to dodge, even without the “Zheleznokroviya”.

The sword whistled through the air over the head of the Torah.

And then…

– H-ng ?!

… Loudly I stared at the wall of the building standing next to them.

“Gotcha!”

Thor came to this conclusion immediately.

So simply the sword from the wall does not pull out. Its destructive power has played a trick on him. Be hit weaker, he would have just jumped off the wall.

Thor stepped forward and fixed to the chest, both komboklinka giant.

The tip of the right blade flew slightly ahead, filled with confidence in the Torah that the impact will be a success.

But…

-?!

Thrust struck is not the body of the enemy, and the air.

Giant absolutely incredible for his body movement dodged the blow.

And, most surprisingly, he ducked up.

A huge body with unnatural agility rose into the air.

It was impossible.

Toru saw where and how was the giant, and it is therefore not certain that he will not be able to dodge the blow. No matter how flexible any human body movement clearly violated the laws of both physics and anatomy.Standing on the site of the person could not suddenly make a somersault on the level of the head. In addition, once the sword on the wall, he found himself in this position, from which jumps generally excluded.

But nonetheless…

– Ha-ha! – There was laughter in the Torah flew like a hammer heel, dressed in heavy boots.

Its located on top of the giant attacked.

Because of the failed attack Tohru was in the bar, from which he could not avoid the impact. Very thrusting left stiletto, he took them to heel kick, but the whole momentum of the impact could not repay. Stiletto knocked out of the hands of the Torah, and he was stuck in the wall of a building nearby.

– ..

Toru decided not to stand on the ground and rolled on the ground.

Dialing a short distance, he again stood up in front of a giant.

– So that's it like?

– So that's it so – with a grin said the giant.

His komboklinok still sticking out of the wall.

He stuck with it? No. Giant specially drove him there.

As was clear from the same species of the sword, he is very strong. He was so strong, that could withstand the weight of the giant. In other words, the giant took glaring at the wall blade as a lever, to soar into the air.

This was not the knight's equipment.

It was not a soldier's equipment.

It does not look like the ones on the right and predictable styles.

Yes, among the mercenaries met by those who knew how to use the very field of battle, to break out of bad situations, but, frankly, this technique has been closer to the art of sabotage such as the Torah and Akari.Using such a cunning technique in an environment of fair swordsmen, you can pass for despicable heretics who revile all and sundry.

But…

– You're not going to say I did not fair? A saboteur? – Mocking voice asked the giant, pulling

the sword from the wall.

– I'm not going, – said Thor.

Ready to meanness. Living tricks.

Saboteurs were proud to be able to use any methods to carry out the task of the client. They did not consider some methods of "righteousness" and other "sinful."

– Well, if so ...

The giant rushed forward with such a clatter, as if he had just split the earth shoe.

Frontal assault.

His contributions to the breakthrough momentum and have the power of a giant, and weight of the sword, which he held in his hands. The situation is complicated by the fact that it was difficult to say at what distance is it will start to attack. And, worse yet, from the first moment of breakthrough, all the forces and all the mind focused on the giant impact, and the impact this could be called a truly deadly advance.

Let the attack and would have a predictable trajectory from low horizontal impact can not leave any left, right or back. A bad jump would turn it into an excellent defenseless target for the enemy.

This attack was as frightening as simple.

But...

– I hope that you're not going to complain about !!! – He exclaimed and jumped Torah, writing a somersault.

Chop the giant blade was just below him.

If you pull back left, back right and impossible to dodge left upstairs. The logic was very simple.

– Se-ya! – I exclaimed the Torah, guiding stylet to the giant head.

Torah could and without any tricks to split the stone hit the blade, but the attack accelerated its rotation and was twice as strong as usual.

That's just ...

– Fool! – I cried the giant.

Indeed, the Torah was avoided the horizontal stroke of the blade. But not more. Once in the air, he is severely restricted in the movements themselves. The big man spun his sword and pointed it upward. Suppose he could write komboklinkom only straight lines, but they can be

quite short.

His attack was to overtake the Torah, but …

– …?!

The giant staggered.

Most likely, he immediately realized what had happened.

His feet were tied black metal wire.

By the tip of the stylet, which had been knocked out of the hands of the Torah, it was fastened wires, and that it has entangled the feet of the giant, as he rushed forward. The other end was still in the Torah, and he did a somersault in the air, not in order to strengthen the attack stiletto, and then to wind the wire stretched and bring down the giant with feet.

– You're in deep trouble!

By the head of the giant still inexorably flying kick stylet.

But the giant, using, obviously, its size, raised his left hand to take a stab at it.

The ringing of metal hitting metal.

Toru Blow could not cut off the giant's hand and stuck somewhere in the middle of his powerful muscles.Rather, the bulk of the strike fell on the chain mail that giant wore under his clothes. Armor – a natural attribute of the battlefield, to accuse him of cowardice had no reason to.

– Heck…

Having decided not to continue the attack, Thor pushed away from the chest of the enemy, and recoiled from it.

At the same time he pulled the wire, returning in stiletto hand stuck in the wall of a building.

But…

– Hi … um … – moaned giant dangling left arm.

The hand did not listen to him – the wound is bleeding, and much of the muscle has been damaged. Half of the hands had already colored with scarlet, and with fingers to the ground dripping blood.

– Well, that … – Thor said, crossing in front of stilettos, like scissors. – Better poumenshit number of enemies, while you can, huh?

Naturally, to cope with such a heavy komboklinkom one hand the giant could not.

In addition, he was badly wounded – Toru enough not to let him stop the bleeding, to win.

– …

The big man frowned, then hoisted his sword on his shoulder and ducked.

– Do you want to continue?

– Yes. I like a mercenary, have principles. I do not think you are, a saboteur, heard of it.

– …

Sighing, the Torah down stilettos.

And here…

– …?!

There was a thud, then the head of the giant swing.

Behind deposited on the ground were men …

– You all right, brother?

– The Torah. They came to help.

Akari, holding the hammer in her hand, and next to it – Seagull.

***

Hand “remains”, they found no problems.

Alberic and Vivi assumed that because of the night they might have a little trouble, but they found a hand instantly – transparent container glistened in the light of a street lamp in the form of a large candlestick.

– It’s … it’s – Vivi said, with great interest the study of the hand.

– Probably. Of course, I can not guarantee that it is true. It is necessary to carry Zita or Matheus, – said Alberic, wrapping the container with a rag in his hand. He then tied her belt on the opposite side of the blade. – By the way, where’s Nicholas?

– Looks like he was there to finish off the saboteur, – said Vivi.

– To finish .. – Alberic frowned.

– Mr. Gillette. Our opponent is young, but he is the saboteur. He could throw a fake arm to throw us off.

– It is of course true, but …

Alberic sighed.

He did not want to involve in the case of people who had nothing to do with. It does not matter whether the guy saboteur. The important thing is that he looked as if he had just hired, without explaining what is happening.

– Okay, let's go back. If we're lucky, we still have time to stop Nicholas.

– Mr. Gillette.

At this time already Vivi sighed.

It is a full-blooded assassin, hit a good-natured Alberic.

But none of them did not even care that Nicholas could lose. With skills kombomechnika Nicholas nothing could compare. Not only does it skillfully mastered komboklinkom, but also enjoyed the unusual techniques of movement in combat, martial arts-based mercenaries. Even the Alberic was not sure that I could beat him in a fair fight.

But…

– … Eh?

They returned to the place where caught the saboteur.

– Nicholas ?! – I whispered in amazement Alberic, Vivi and began to prepare for battle.

Friends strongman, who considered him invincible, Nicholas found lying on the ground, and the same spy sat on it cross-legged.

– You … you mean that struck Nicholas?

– Well, how to say – with displeasure said saboteur. – In any case, I must say – he is still alive.

– …

Alberic frowned.

Saboteurs are not shunned any methods to win. Of course, the killing of them was not there something sacred. Denying the defeated enemy for them a natural thing.

But why …

– … So that's it [1] , – he handed Alberic, then untied the handkerchief and withdrew his hand from his belt.

– Yes. I'm sorry I made you run after it, – said the saboteur. Most likely, it was sarcasm, but his face remained the same frown. – If this thing for you is more important than his life, you

can keep it. But then I'll kill him. He gave me a lot of trouble … but now it is easier to kill than the roll neck baby.

– …

Alberic heard Vivi quietly growled.

But…

– So you really do not know anything? – Alberic said, carefully choosing his words.

– What are you?

– About her. About a girl that hired you. I do not know her name, because they have no idea how she decided to introduce this time.

– … – The saboteur looked Alberic and Vivi narrowed eyes.

– I do not know how she proposed to you, but I advise you to stop fooling around. If you're going to help her, it is not no good end. Or do you want to draw the whole world against it?

– I appreciate your words, – the saboteur said. – But such vague and abstract speeches have not convinced me.

– …

– …

Alberic and Vivi looked at each other.

This saboteur did not know anything.

The information was kept a closely guarded secret, but …

– Empire Gas – Alberic said. – That hand belonged to the emperor of the Empire Gas Devil, Emperor and curse a man with a lot of other nicknames. A man who was both king and the greatest magician in history.Arthur Gaza.

– …

By dissatisfied person saboteur added frown.

Most likely, he did not believe their story too.

Gas Arthur was a great creation.

As if the stories about him or were close to the myths and legends, they are not lying. There were even people who thought that he was not a man. But it is most likely because it was so great that ordinary people do not fit in my head.

But…

– And that girl srebrovolosaya that hired you … – Alberic continued, carefully watching the reaction of the interlocutor. – This seagull Gas – the daughter of the emperor.

***

Arthur Gas.

Man million nicknames.

Cursed Emperor Devil Immortal King, Monster, Great Sage, Sverhimperator, militant fanatic …

All these nicknames is both true and false. The fact that this person is too large and complicated to be described is only one phrase. He was a unique phenomenon in the history of Ferbista and lived a life so long that sometimes you could hear that the name belonged to more than one person, and all the emperors Strip.

He was a dictator, ruling a vast northern country. Sage has developed a variety of magical techniques. And during the long war he has become famous as a brilliant strategist, deftly vodivshy nose armies of other states.

But most importantly … he has done so much for the magic … All the modern foundations of magical techniques have been developed, we can say it is Arthur. And looking at how widespread was the magic in this world, it is easy to understand the scientists who said that "without the development of civilization would have slowed down for a hundred years," and "it is the Emperor Gaza has led humanity into the future."

However, on the other hand … there were people who pointed out that about Arthur Gaza no record telling about his life before he revived Empire Gas, and suggested that the very existence of the emperor Arthur Strip could be a hoax the greatest scale.

But whatever it was …

Emperor Arthur Gas was so significant figure in the history of the continent Ferbist that some memories of him, telling about the 300 years of life, continued to affect the world.

But … even though the skill, which he achieved in magic rituals, the Devil, who ruled the Empire Gas three hundred years, yet was not immortal, whatever may be said about it.

Gas Arthur was killed during the attack on Gaza capital.

His death marked the end of the great war that swept the entire Ferbist.

In other words, Arthur Gas has become a symbol of wartime Ferbist continent.

Naturally, he continued to influence this world.

And therefore…

***

– Daughter of the Devil …? – Frowning, whispered Torah.

These words he did not expect.

They can even be called shocking. No matter how shameful it was for the saboteur, but surprisingly the Torah, apparently, was evident on his face as Gillette nodded in response and continued:

– Exactly. Five years ago, during the assault on the capital of the Empire Gas Arthur Gaza killed, but his daughter, Gull gas escaped.

– One …?

If Seagull looked about 15, 5 years ago, it was supposed to be a little girl of about 10 years.

It is hard to imagine that she was able to escape from the same place where he died monstrously powerful Arthur Gas. And if it helped the vassals of the emperor, why they were not there to Chaika now?

They died?

Or they run away themselves, throwing Seagull?

Or…

“It’s impossible. We killed you! ”

These words said the count, seeing Seagull.

It turns out, he was quite sure that she was dead, and this unexpected meeting meant that she somehow miraculously survived.

– How it happened – we do not know themselves – Gillette said. – But be that as it may, we can not just leave her alone.

– Why? – Asked the Torah.

From his point of view Seagull only awkward girl, little versed in magic. It is not exactly the kind of person who could hunt for a squad with a knight, a mercenary and assassin.

But … it seems that the Torah was wrong in their judgments.

– In this world there are still many followers Gaza Emperor. Perhaps the greatest miracle may be mentioned that the capital of the Empire in general could take, even with the combined armies of other countries.

Although powerful countries and they disliked each other … but the circumstances of the case and were such that they were at the time of an alliance. It resulted in an attack on the capital of the Empire Gas. And if the Empire reborn, that other countries are unlikely to be once again join forces. Gillette's words meant just that.

– Even after his death Cursed Emperor retains a strong influence. There are people who would gladly have united around his daughter, Gull gas to try to revive the Empire Gas.

– …

– Also … – Gillette looked at the vessel in his hand. – The remains of the Beast who lived 300 … no, perhaps even 500 years – the strongest magic fuel. It is difficult to imagine how much magical power accumulated in them over this time. Gundo, dressed them, it would be an incredibly powerful weapon.

Drive Magic, a source of magical power were thinking beings.

Since the bodies of sentient beings have accumulated over the life of creatures residual thoughts of them could retrieve the magical power. Most Gundo worked on decayed to a uniform level remains – fossils and dust.With extended spell of these magical power to shape, then the will of the mage's fire as a "fuse" and launched a response.

In most cases used for magic fossils Fail … but in theory the source of magic could speak and embalmed human remains.

For example, this hand.

– It is now clear…

Graf was able to turn his own mansion in huge Gundo.

It has such a range of impressive not just because it was great – the spell was so powerful precisely because as a fuel in it was charged hand the great sorcerer, Emperor of the Damned.

Most likely, this is why the corpse of Arthur Gas divided into several parts, which were kept apart. People who obey Gillette, afraid of how powerful a tool it may happen if you collect all the remains, and the fact that these weapons can be done by people that dream about the revival of the Empire Gas.

– I mean, finally? – A little impatiently said Gillette. – Seagull Gas – seed capable of plunging this continent, which, finally, at peace, in the abyss of a new war. We can not allow it to collect the remains of his father!

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– Seagull Gas – seed capable of plunging this continent, which, finally, at peace, in the abyss of a new war.We can not allow it to collect the remains of his father!

Creek Gillette was so loud that it was heard even hiding nearby Seagull and Akari.

– …

Akari transferred indifferent glance at the Seagull.

Cursed Emperor's Daughter slightly bowed her head and bit her lip.

– What he said – is not it?

– …

Chaika could not answer.

But her fingers tightly gripping the handle a rifle mounted on the roof of a house, and ready at any moment to come to the aid of the Torah, sharply white.

Rather … it was true.

– Daughter of the Devil …

– I … – quietly said Gull.

She spoke no language at the continental, and Lak, north language used in Gas Empire.

– I just … wanted … to collect scattered remains of his father and bury it … that's all … I'm doing this just because … that should do it …

– … – Akari said nothing.

But at the same time, she could not believe that the gull was somehow connected with the rebels of the Empire Gas or sympathizers. And in general, if they supported her, she would not have to hire a Torah and Akari.

Akari was an orphan. Among the residents ACURE had a lot of people who have no family. Rows of saboteurs in general traditionally reinforced with orphans brought up by them.

Because of this, Akari can not understand the feelings that feels Seagull.

And present them she too could not.

But…

– Brother …

What about this thought the Torah?

Akari narrowed her eyes and waited for her decision, though not native, but a brother.

***

– Well … – whispered the Torah.

But it seems that these words are heard as the Gillette, and standing next to him Vivi.

Both of them looked at him puzzled.

– Plunged into the abyss of a new war? Sounds wonderful.

Thor grinned, revealing teeth.

Gillette's eyes widened in surprise and something extended, and Vivi looked at the Torah as the hated garbage society.

He did not pay any attention to it. Being a saboteur, the poor and the unemployed, he has long been accustomed to the contempt and neglect.

– War of me liking. I would not mind to go back to the era of World War II.

– What are you?!

Gillette looked at him like a monster, diarrhea whole world unknown curses.

– I am a saboteur. I do not need peace and quiet. Because of him I interfere with shit, I can not do anything, I can not leave behind, I can not change anything. To hell with such a life for the sake of a meaningless death!

The memory flashed memories of that day.

Hasumin, who died at the very moment when he held out his dead child.

He wanted to change the world.

He wanted to leave his mark on it.

He did not want to be born, and just die – he wanted to live with meaning. He wanted to know for what and for what was born to die. And to achieve this goal, he was willing to put all their strength.

Therefore…

– Do you want the war ?!

– Yes!

Toru bloodthirsty smile.

But really … it was not the only reason. Aldeady no.

“If she lives for the sake of it …”

Gull. The daughter of the Emperor of the Damned.

Lonely Princess with a coffin on his back, collecting the remains of his father.

She was all alone. In the heart of the hopelessly hostile to her world.

She moved forward, staring with its purpose.

Let this thing crazy and reckless … but for her, this goal was so important and steadfast, that was the meaning of life.

And if so …

“What I want to fulfill her wish,” – honestly thought the Torah.

In contrast, no matter how the world has changed … or rather, precisely because he is so I changed her will was unshakeable.

She seemed Torah dazzling bright guiding star.

And therefore…

– Seagull !!! – I exclaimed Thor, jumping into the air.

He abruptly rushed forward … and closed his eyes.

– …?!

Knight Gillette and assassin Vivi stood in a fighting stance.

Both were strong opponents. Torah could not defeat them, just rushing forward.

But…

Between Torah and Gillette suddenly flashed a blinding flash.

Spell previously agreed with seagulls.

It was called “dazzling”, refers to the illusory and the type differed extremely high level of light emitted.

And, of course, zastignuv surprise, it could deprive a person of a few seconds.

At the same time, the hidden saboteurs felt in the darkness, like a fish in water. Thor was able to move about without posing or uttering sounds, finding opponents for the smallest breath of wind.

He could attack their opponents, even with closed eyes.

– Ng ?!

Gillette immediately drew his sword, but because of the magical flash Gulls in his movements was not sure.The same is true for Vivi. As the assassin, it must have similar skills to the Torah, but against the suddenly exploding could do nothing in the face of an outbreak.

But even with all this, they remain dangerous opponents.

I swung the sword flew needle.

But technicians deprived of soldiers far from their full-fledged counterparts. Thor raised his blades and immediately repelled the attack.

– Kx ?! – Gillette dropped.

Thor crashed into him and …

– Pops back.

… Dramatically snatched the vessel, which he clutched in his hand.

– With the … wait! – Gillette said, trying to catch the opponent with his left hand.

Vivi raised her regular needles … but never released them. In such circumstances, the risk is too high to hurt ally.

– Wait. You … – again exclaimed the young knight.

But the Torah continued to run away, not even looking back.

***

As it turned out, his luggage was not particularly.

Favorite Weapon tools. Few clothes. Minimum money.

Bag of belongings were not very large, resembling the size of a coffin Gulls.

– Akari?

– I, too, has been collected.

Knapsack Akari rather resembled his own.

Nodding, the Torah has decided once again to ask her not to contact him by blood sister:

– In any case, remember, you do not have to go along with us.

– Do not be silly, brother – Akari shook her head. – I will always be with you.

– Akari …

– If my brother … – Akari said softly as always with a clear face. – Die of nowhere, I'll be stuffed?

– We must not forget in the moment of death epic explode – Thor grumbled, then sighed and walked out of the house.

The morning was so early that the sun had not yet light up the sky at dawn. On the street, blown by the wind chilling, lonely girl standing with a coffin on his back.

– Well, are we going?

– Um, – heard his voice, Chaika turned and looked at them puzzled look. – The Torah. Akari. Why?

– Count seen our faces – Thor shrugged. – We would have had to flee the city in any case.

They not only stole the graph in the mansion, but also agreed with him in the battle, and then came into conflict with the group, which seems to have served as a special order of the government. Not that their conflict has gone too far, but it is unlikely they would be allowed to live peacefully in Delsorante.

– Well, since we still are traveling, why not at the same time to help you with your "work"? Cheaply.

The idea exactly where to go, they did not.

And if so, there is nothing to prevent them from going to the same place and Seagull.

In addition, a certain contribution has made and easy settlement – apparently, the money still had Gulls, which means starvation they would not have died.

And most importantly…

– But I … – Seagull looked down. It seems that her pedigree is still gave her no peace. – The daughter of the Emperor of the Damned …

– I told you … – immediately interrupted Torah. – War of me liking.

– …

– If I go with you, then maybe I can change the world. I will have a chance to do so, if the world of dull monotony and tranquility, I would be among the world immersed in chaos for the sake of life in which was born.So I was satisfied with this outcome.

Let other people would find it disgusting scum …

But it's better than a meaningless death.

He was going to leave behind evidence that he lived not in vain.

– Seagull – Thor reached out srebrovolosoy girl. – I'm willing to go as far as I can. You agree?

– …

Seagull looked at the Torah.

Then, Akari.

– Yeah … – Akari said, nodding.

And then…

– Yes!

Gull's eyes sparkled, and she took the arm Torah.

Seagull Gas, daughter of the Emperor of the Damned.

Toru ACURE and Akari ACURE, brother and sister, two commandos.

On the day they left at dawn Delsorant.

And they went on a journey with the aim to plunge the world into war.

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Afterword

Hello, I'm Sakaki, a novelist.

My new work is called "The Seagull – Princess with a coffin."

This fantasy in the style of sword and sorcery. Probably.

This book has turned out such as it is, thanks to the help of many people … but if people usually write this, trying to say that everything written from start to finish on their own, there is this nuance there. His contribution to the book and made editor (although it should), and the artist, and the proofreader, and designer.

Of course, I will not deny that the opinions and thoughts of other people have contributed to the design and content of the book, this time the contribution was not the same as in my previous work. Maybe I like the author, just as it seems.

book idea was born in a conversation with the editor.

Sakaki: "What about the new book"

Editor: "Let's classic fantasy, sword and magic."

Sakaki: "Yeah. Here, look, fit? "

Editor: "I'm sorry, but could you change this part here?"

Sakaki: "But in this case, the product will lose flavor …"

Editor: "So you do not write strange things."

Sakaki: "Oh … and if you so?"

Editor: "I'm sorry, but could you change this part here?"

Sakaki: "But in this case, the product will lose flavor …"

Editor: "So you do not write strange things."

Sakaki: "Oh … and if you so?"

Editor: "I'm sorry, but could you …"

Sakaki: "But in this case …"

(After a few iterations)

Sakaki: "What am I to write something!"

Editor: ‘Fantasy. The sword and magic. The story of the journey, with huge enemies fighting to protect friends and family! ”

Sakaki: “Oh. I remember at one time is writing something! ”

Editor: “Excellent! So, write without any problems! ”

Sakaki: “Resolved, the main character will be called Pacifica! By tomorrow it will be so much the manuscripts that will be enough for 10 volumes. There is ?! ”

Editor: “Come stand”

Sakaki: “What am I …”

And so on.

So in the battle against the editor and born elements like “the group: 1 boy and 2 girls”, “travel book” and so on. Back to basics – certainly good, but because of this began to emerge in a large number of elements of past works. Due to the fact that the need to return to basics shlestyvayutsya in the head with the understanding that the new product should be “new”, the work was very hard.

As a result, it was necessary for many days to come up with the plot developments and listen to the editor failures.

Several times I have been asked to alter the name of the heroine, because it sounded nice enough.

For some reason I wanted to give the name of the Russian character, but the problem is that “cute” names of Russian naparyvayutsya necessarily something known, “Anya” there, “Sasha.” “Kudryavka” finally. No, of course, I could just give up and write well, but too strong mental image of the “Kudryavka”.

In the end, I gave up and went to the issues “such names in the Russian language in general is?” A familiar Russian fans – Tominaga Hiroshi and Hayami Rasendzin.

Regarding the title of the book I also pressed for a long time. In the end, I went to complain to friends, and then AMAG Syuske proposed idea: “Princess with a coffin.” In this embodiment, I stopped.

And so, thanks to the support of other people (which, however, has been reduced to a moral), and this book was born. But this does not mean that I sat around! Fair!